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IT'S NO FLIGHT OF FANCY

Coach Rebecca Leonard shows 10-year-old Raven Jade of Winnipeg the ropes on the trapeze swing at Gordon Bell High School Wednesday. The death-defying training is part of the Circus and Magic Partnership, an annual artistic intervention project that sees more than 250 at-risk kids spend spring break learning circus skills before performing in front of their family and friends. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Signs invite public to mayor's day in court

Conflict of interest. City councillor, restaurant owner promote upcoming court case

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

A Winnipeg city councillor is hyping mayor Sam Katz's upcoming conflict of interest court battle with a large campaign-style sign he's prominently displayed on the fence around his West End home.

Mayor Sam Katz will be in a Court of Queen's Bench courtroom next week to defend himself against allegations by Winnipeg restaurant owner, Joe Chan, who says the mayor unfairly authorized a 2010 Christmas party at Hu's Asian Bistro, a restaurant he owned at the time.

"The mayor may have to vacate his seat," said Coun. Harvey Smith (Daniel McIntyre), who paid for the sign, which invites the public to the trial, and can be seen outside his Simcoe Street home.

"I want everyone to realize because I think this is serious. The mayor has to be held accountable."

The mayor spent nearly $3,000 for the party, which was attended by department heads, family members and city councillors, and charged the tab to the city.

Smith told Metro he has receipts showing Katz has spent more than $25,000 in taxpayers' money at the restaurant, which he has since sold.

"All of those are conflict of interest, but the lawyer has decided to go after just the one event," said Smith of the allegation under the province's Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act.

Coun. Harvey Smith has paid for signs inviting the public to watch Mayor Sam Katz's conflict of interest court case next week. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

The mayor's office declined comment when Metro called Wednesday.

This week Chan put up a second of Smith's signs outside his Regent Avenue West Cathay House Restaurant.

"Not just the judge can make a decision, but also the public," said Chan of the move.

"I want people to show up."

Chan vs. Katz is slated to start 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Law Courts Building on York Avenue.

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CAA

Vote for our worst roads

Crews fix potholes on St. James.
BEN SINGER/FOR METRO

Potholes and traffic snarls abound, but what is the worst road of all? CAA Manitoba is asking drivers to vote in their second Worst Roads campaign.

Last year, St. James Street won the dishonour, and CAA Manitoba president Mike Mager chose the pothole-ridden intersection of St. Matthews and St. James to launch the event.

Mager says the area has changed little since. "It's a lot of traffic, highly congested, poor conditions and this is just unacceptable in our city."

Last year's commitment of $30 million to redevelop the street has yet to begin.

Coun. Scott Fielding (St. James-Brooklands) said the contest was probably helpful in getting the street the attention it needs. He said studies are underway on the street's redevelopment plan. Options include creating separate turn lanes and expanding St. Matthews west past St. James Street.

Coun. Russ Wyatt (Transcona) said while he's OK with the rankings, he feels CAA should offer solutions, adding Winnipeg's infrastructure requires a greater injection of tax revenues from the provincial and federal levels.

BEN SINGER/FOR METRO

Activists protest circus at MTS

'Lifetime of misery.' Group says animals trained by fear

BEN SINGER
winnipeg@metronews.ca

The circus was in town, but some Winnipeggers were having none of it yesterday.

A small group of protesters with anti-animal-cruelty signs and pamphlets assembled in front of the MTS Centre, where the Super Spring Break Circus was holding its second and final day of animal performances.

Janice Pennington, with the Humane Education Network, wore a bunny mask and costume, while handing out flyers outside the arena entrance.

"Animals are only trained by fear, abuse and lack of food," she told Metro.

"We're here to help Winnipeg parents learn ... there are so many more avenues to educate your children about animals ..."

Circus patrons mainly walked around the six to seven women toting cardboard signs with images of elephants in chains, and slogans like "Circuses: a lifetime of misery."

Parents did not seem dissuaded by the protest.

Swaran Singh, who brought his two-year-old daughter Lydia to her first circus, said the protesters' claims conflicted with what he read about the event online.

"Unless they know for sure how an animal is being treated, they really can't say if an animal is being treated cruelly or not," he said.

For her part, Lydia said she was excited to see the monkeys.

The circus is run by Ontario's Bowmanville Zoo, which has been criticized by animal-rights groups for its treatment of its lone Asian elephant, Limba.

Zoo director Michael Hackenberger did not return calls by press time, but he has previously been quoted in media reports calling animal cruelty accusations "a lie based on ignorance and agenda."

Janice Pennington, wearing a bunny outfit, protests what she says are cruel practises by a circus being held at the MTS Centre.
BEN SINGER/FOR METRO

Spring cleaning. Yard collection delayed

As the slow spring thaw keeps crews hard at work around Winnipeg this week, the city is pushing back the start of its curbside yard-waste collection because spring hasn't sprung quite quick enough.

Collection was supposed to begin Monday for some residents, but the start date has been changed to April 15 — weather permitting — because chilly temperatures and heavy amounts of remaining snow has delayed spring clean-up plans for most Winnipeggers.

Once it gets going, yard waste will be collected at the curb once every two weeks, on the same collection day as recycling and garbage.

Meanwhile city crews are out in full force opening frozen curb inlets and culverts, addressing overland flooding from snowmelt, sanding streets and fixing potholes.

The city advises residents to keep a close eye on overland flooding around their homes, and reminds Winnipeggers that sandbags will be provided to anyone who needs them.

Residents can report potholes and ponding water caused by frozen catch basins and culverts that are threatening properties by calling 311.

METRO

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Guitarist and songwriter Randy Bachman of The Guess Who and BTO returns to Winnipeg on his Vinyl Tap Tour. CONTRIBUTED

He's still takin' care of business

Randy Bachman. Winnipeg-born and raised superstar set to play Pantages Playhouse Theatre

JARED STORY
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Randy Bachman's still taking care of business.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, the 69-year-old guitarist and songwriter is currently crossing Canada on his Vinyl Tap Tour, delivering the hits of The Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive along with the stories behind such iconic songs as These Eyes and You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet.

"Most of it's made up every night but it's kind of like you telling a bedtime story to your kids who want to hear the same story over and over," Bachman says, noting that there will also a visual component to the show, showing his haircuts, clothes, guitars and cars throughout the years.

"You change it a little bit here and there but basically it's the same story. So the show is a couple hours of me and my band (Brent Howard, Marc LaFrance and Mick Dalla-Vee) reliving the soundtrack of my life and hopefully the audience's life."

Sober his whole life, Bachman's rock 'n' roll recollections are spot-on, his memory made even stronger from his CBC Radio show Vinyl Tap, where he plays his favourite songs and tells stories of his more than 50 years in the industry. Bachman says he's very excited to return to Winnipeg and especially the Pantages Playhouse Theatre, where it all started.

"I saw Johnny and the Hurricanes there as a kid," Bachman says. "In fact, between the Playhouse, the Winnipeg Auditorium (now the Manitoba Archives Building) and the old Winnipeg Arena, I saw every rock 'n' roll, country and jazz show that came to town. My aunties took me to all these shows and that was life-changing for me. To come back to Winnipeg and play the Playhouse will be really amazing."

Hometown boy

"To come back to Winnipeg and play the Playhouse will be really amazing."
Randy Bachman

Top tickets

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Randy Bachman returns to the Pantages Playhouse on Wednesday. Tickets are $81.25, $51.25 and $39.75 at Ticketmaster. Showtime is 8 p.m.

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5 Easter conventions

Happy Easter! We take a quick look at five Easter traditions and why we do them.

ELISHA DACEY
elisha.dacey@metronews.ca

1

Easter bunny

The bunny goes back a long time, my friends, about 325 years back. It was first mentioned by an author named Georg Franck von Frankenau, where an Easter hare brought Easter eggs, and hares used to have an association with the Virgin Mary. Now, he's been commercialized and brings chocolate.

2

Easter eggs (pysanka)

The Ukrainians took the tradition of painting eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ to a whole new level. These gorgeously decorated eggs, using beeswax, were thought to protect homes from everything from fires to evil spirits.

3

Easter egg hunt

Eggs were thought to be symbols of fertility, and because that lovely Easter hare brought eggs, children hunted for them in the grass. Christians considered eggs to be a symbol of life, and therefore the symbol of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now, for many, it's a celebration of the renewal of spring.

4

Easter chocolate

So why are the eggs we hunt for made of chocolate? Well, traditionally, those eggs would be real ones (See pysanka, No. 2) but those got kinda messy. Enter Cadbury, who introduced a chocolate version in 1873. Then, in 1905, we had milk chocolate eggs.

5

Hot cross buns

As delicious as it is to eat chocolate all the time, Easter is usually resplendent with fantastic food — like hot cross buns, which are traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The sweet buns are representative of the crucifixion of Jesus.

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1.4M viewers. Student's anti-rape video packs a surprise in the punchline

Nineteen-year-old Samantha Stendal's anti-rape video was simple, short and sweet.

And her message has captured 1.4 million viewers in just five days.

Stendal, a second-year University of Oregon film major, decided to make the video titled A Needed Response because of the coverage of the Steubenville, Ohio, rape trial.

In Stendal's 26-second video, a woman is passed out on a couch and a guy in front of her leers at the camera, "Guess what I'm gonna do to her?"

The result is not what you'd expect:

The guy fetches a pillow, a blanket and a glass of water and then says, "Real men treat women with respect."

Stendal, events co-ordinator of the University Film Organization, said she made her first YouTube video because she was upset that one of the first questions about that rape case has been "what the victim could have done differently."

Two Steubenville High School football players were convicted on March 17 of raping a 16-year-old girl who was passed out at a party.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Guess what I'm gonna do to her?"

Leering guy in A Needed Response video as he looks at a woman passed out on a couch. But then he springs a surprise by bringing her a pillow and a blanket.

Safe sites

Free condoms rile university

A Massachusetts university is threatening disciplinary action against students who distribute condoms out of their dorm rooms.

Boston College says the distribution of condoms is a violation of the facility's Roman Catholic values.

A civil liberties lawyer says Boston College may be violating student rights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health

Probe pinpoints new cancer risks

A huge international operation has uncovered dozens of new DNA signposts that can reveal a person's risk for breast, ovarian or prostate cancer.

Scientists found 49 new risk markers for breast cancer, 26 for prostate cancer and eight for ovarian cancer.

The operation involved genetic tests on 200,000 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defense of Marriage Act may soon be dead

U.S. court drops hints. Justices may toss out law that prevents gay couples from getting benefits that go to married straights

Hoping for a game-changer: Same-sex-marriage supporters rally Wednesday outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., while, inside, justices and lawyers debated whether to strike down a law that prevents legally married gay couples from receiving certain federal benefits. MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. Supreme Court appeared late Wednesday to be on the verge of dropping a gay-marriage bombshell.

It indicated it could strike down the law that prevents legally married gay couples from receiving federal benefits that go to married people.

After two days of intense debate, the court wrapped up its arguments.

And Justice Anthony Kennedy — often the decisive vote in a divided court — joined the four more liberal justices in raising questions about the provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that is being challenged at the Supreme Court.

Kennedy said the law appears to intrude on the power of states that recognize same-sex marriages.

Other justices said the law creates what Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called two classes of marriage.

The federal law affects a range of benefits available to married couples, including tax breaks, survivor benefits and health insurance.

Lower federal courts have struck down the section of the law that defines marriage as being between one man and one woman.

President Barack Obama declared his support for gay marriage in last year's presidential election campaign.

Same-sex marriage is legal in nine states and the District of Columbia, while 12 others recognize "civil unions" or "domestic partnerships" that grant the same benefits without full rights of marriage.

All the other U.S. states ban gay marriage in their constitutions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New logo

Gay marriage is in the pink

Bud Light said it with beer cans. Martha Stewart said it with red velvet cake.

Companies and celebrities from Beyoncé to George Takei this week joined millions of social media users in posting and tweeting a simple red logo in support of gay marriage.

A square box with thick pink horizontal lines (the mathematical equal symbol) was offered for sharing by the Human Rights Campaign.

The image — pictured above — is a makeover of the advocacy group's logo, usually a blue background with bright yellow lines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Iconic rodent. Some complain Wiarton Willie was wrong this year

The central Ontario town best known as the home of Wiarton Willie is coming to the defence of its furry forecaster.

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula, which includes the community of Wiarton, has issued a statement saying Willie is "still a valued prognosticator" despite grumblings about his accuracy.

The famous rodent did not see his shadow on Groundhog Day, indicating it would be an early spring, but some in his hometown beg to differ.

Early spring?

Willie's American counterpart Punxsutawney Phil came under fire this week when a lawyer threatened to take him to court over his inaccurate forecast.

Mayor John Close says the weather has been normal, but expectations are high following last year's balmy March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayor John Close of Wiarton listens to Willie in February. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court sets rules on text-message interception

Privacy rights. Special wiretap orders needed before police can intercept texts, not ordinary search warrants

Police need special wiretap orders — not just ordinary search warrants — to intercept cellphone text messages as part of criminal investigations, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Wednesday.

In a 5-2 split decision, the court sided with wireless carrier Telus by agreeing that text messaging is essentially another form of conversation and should receive the same protection to which private communications are entitled under the Criminal Code.

"Text messaging is, in essence, an electronic conversation," Justice Rosalie Abella wrote for the majority of the court.

"Technical differences inherent in new technology should not determine the scope of protection afforded to private communications.

"The only practical difference between text messaging and traditional voice communications is the transmission process. This distinction should not take text messages outside the protection to which private communications are entitled," Justice Abella wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ruling

"We see it as a robust vindication of privacy rights in the digital age."

Abby Deshman of The Canadian Civil Liberties Association

The Supreme Court says texting should receive the same protection as private communications. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Liberal race. Harper, Mulcair pandering to 'fringes': Trudeau

With the finish line in sight, Justin Trudeau took his Liberal leadership bid to the financial heartland on Wednesday, accusing both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair of pandering to political extremism.

"We have two parties that are ideologically based around the fringes," Trudeau said. "Where the Liberal party needs to be focused on is the actual large mass of Canadians ... who are not driven by a specific polarizing issue."

Justin Trudeau
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robocalls

Report calls for harsher punishments

Elections Canada is seeking greater powers to punish anyone caught impersonating one of its officials in the wake of the robocalls affair.

The agency released a report on Wednesday into false or misleading calls made during the last federal election.

The report urges the government to create a new offence that includes hefty fines and jail time for anyone caught pretending to be an Elections Canada official.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muzzling complaints spark debate among Tory MPs

Conservative MP Mark Warawa gets set to appear before the Commons house affairs committee on Wednesday in Ottawa. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Freedom of speech. Concerns PM's desire to keep abortion issue closed is trumping freedom of debate

Conservative MPs are grappling with the issue of party control and freedom of speech in Parliament after a handful of their colleagues complained they're being muzzled.

The subject was discussed at the weekly caucus meeting, but there appeared to be no resolution.

Vancouver-area MP Mark Warawa has complained to the Speaker of the House of Commons that his right to make statements on a subject of his choice before question period has been stifled.

Some MPs sided with Warawa, while others suggested he was offside.

"A member should be able to make a statement on any issue they think is important to themselves or their constituencies," said Tory MP Kyle Seeback. "Mr. Warawa's (member's statement) should not have been taken away."

Alberta Tory MP Leon Benoit, who had originally backed Warawa's complaint before the speaker, suggested that some measure of peace had been achieved at the weekly meeting.

"We had a really good caucus meeting, and the prime minister's as usual shown good leadership and I appreciate that," Benoit said. "He's a great leader. It was a good discussion."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"A member should be able to make a statement on any issue."

Kyle Seeback, Conservative MP

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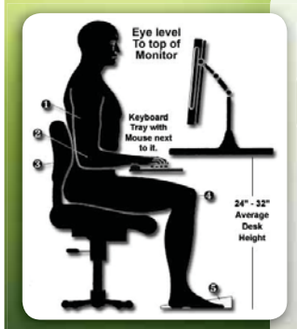

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Internet spam fighter zapped by massive online attack

An Internet watchdog group responsible for keeping ads for counterfeit Viagra and bogus weight-loss pills out of inboxes around the world has been hit by a huge cyber-attack, a crushing electronic onslaught that one expert said has already had ripple effects across the web.

Spam-fighting organization Spamhaus said Wednesday that it had been buffeted by a massive denial-of-service attack since mid-March, apparently from groups angry at being blacklisted by the Geneva-based group.

"It is a small miracle that we're still online," said Spamhaus researcher Vincent Hanna.

Denial-of-service attacks work by overwhelming target servers with traffic.

The attack could be bad news for email users, many of whose incoming messages are checked against Spamhaus's widely used and constantly updated blacklists.

Hanna said that his site had so far managed to stay on top of the spammers, but warned that being knocked offline could give them an opening. The sheer size of the attack has already affected Internet users elsewhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Marketing research shows web surfers actually read very little on a page as their eyes dart around their search for something specific. There are lessons in this info for web designers. SCOTT BARBOUR/GETTY IMAGES

Research tracks quick hits of users

Findings. Users focus on the first few search results down the page and only about a third of the way horizontally

Ian Everdell knows exactly where people's eyes generally go when browsing a web page, and how women act a little differently than men when it comes to reading online.

If you can even call it reading.

Everdell has it on good authority that Internet users typically aren't really reading at all on most web pages. Their eyes impatiently dart across the screen in search of something specific, or something interesting to pique their attention, but there's not much actual reading going on.

He knows because of the eye-tracking technology at the Toronto office of the marketing company Mediative, where web users sit down to do a little surfing and have their flits of vision recorded and studied.

Web designers can then see what viewers are looking at and what they're not.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Front-end your web prose

"At the beginning of a headline, or a heading, or paragraph, people are seeing at most 12 to 15 characters," said Ian Everdell of Mediative.

- That means that the content of the writing has to be front-ended to catch attention, he said.

BlackBerry

U.S. sales a test of comeback hopes

Investors will get a first glimpse Thursday of sales data for BlackBerry's new Z10 touchscreen smartphone.

The Waterloo-based company is to report financial results for fiscal 2013 and for the fourth quarter ended March 2 before markets open, with options trades betting that the release will drive the company's stock higher.

BlackBerry's report will capture nearly a month of sales from the Z10, a sleek, multi-tasking handset running on a rebuilt BB10 operating platform that launched first in the U.K. on Jan. 31.

It will include no sales from the U.S., where the platform debuted last Friday.

While most analysts see the numbers from the U.S., BlackBerry's largest single market, as the test of its comeback hopes, some say early data could give the volatile stock a short-term boost.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crews remove piece of Berlin Wall

Hated symbol. 15 feet of concrete removed to make way for real estate development

For nearly 30 years, the Berlin Wall was the hated symbol of the division of Europe, a grey, concrete mass that snaked through neighbourhoods, separating families and friends. On Wednesday, it took hundreds of police to guarantee the safe removal of less than five metres of what's left of the wall.

Construction crews, protected by about 250 police officers, hauled down part of the 1.3-kilometre strip of the wall before dawn to provide access to a planned luxury apartment complex overlooking the Spree River.

Even though most of the strip remains intact, the move angered many Berliners, who believe that developers are sacrificing history for profit.

The site, known as the East Side Gallery, has become a major tourist attraction, painted by 120 artists with colorful scenes along the grey concrete tiles.

It is the longest remaining portion of the 155-kilometre wall that surrounded Western-occupied West Berlin from 1961 until the peaceful revolution against the communist East German government in 1989.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police guard a construction site and sections of the East Side Gallery, while parts of the former Berlin Wall are removed in Berlin on Wednesday.

BRITTA PEDERSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Festival of colours

Foreign tourists smear coloured powder on one another, top, and a widow throws flowers during Holi celebrations in Pushkar, India. The festival, which marks the advent of spring, was celebrated across the country on Wednesday.

DEEPAK SHARMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; KEVIN FRAYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal bones?

Diocese speculates bones could belong to King Alfred the Great

A diocese in southern England says it has exhumed a grave over fears that a set of bones could be stolen amid speculation that the remains are those of King Alfred the Great.

The Diocese of Winchester says the exhumation took place earlier this week in the churchyard of St. Bartholomew's Church. The bones are now in storage.

Nick Edmond, diocese spokesman, said Wednesday the exhumation was authorized to protect the bones amid heightened interest following the recently discovered remains of King Richard III.

Edmondson said no permission has been given to analyze the bones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Public Utilities Board

Notice of Public Hearing

TO REVIEW MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CHARGES AND FEES FOR PAYDAY LOANS

PURSUANT to ***The Consumer Protection Act (Act) (C.C.S.M.2006 c.200)*** the Manitoba Public Utilities Board (Board) will conduct a public hearing to review charges and fees for payday loans and related matters in order to make a report to the Minister. Specifically Sec. 164 of the Act provides:

164(2) Within three years after the first regulation under clause 163(1) (f.1) (maximum cost of credit) comes into force, the board must commence a review of

(a) the meaning of "cost of credit" for the purposes of this Part;

(b) the maximum cost of credit — or any rate, tariff or formula for determining the maximum cost of credit — that may be charged, required or accepted in respect of a payday loan; and

(c) the maximum amounts, or the rates, tariffs or formulas for determining the maximum amounts, that may be charged, required or accepted

(i) in respect of any component of the cost of credit for a payday loan,

(ii) in respect of the extension or renewal of a payday loan,

(iii) in respect of a replacement loan, or

(iv) in respect of a default by the borrower under a payday loan.

Further, the Board will submit its report to the Minister which will include

(i) a description of the board's consultation and the results of the consultation, and

(ii) the board's recommendations about the matters reviewed under subsection (2); and

(b) may include any other recommendations about the regulation of payday lenders or payday loans.

HEARING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

After receiving written evidence and submissions the Board will convene for those wishing to provide oral submissions or oral presentations.

Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hearing Room – 4th floor, 330 Portage Avenue

PARTICIPATION AND SCOPE OF HEARING:

Intervener Status

All persons, firms or corporations wishing to intervene in respect of this matter, to provide evidence, or make oral submissions are required to send an application for intervener status to The Public Utilities Board, 400 - 330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0C4 by March 29, 2013. The forms are available on the Board's website –www.pub.gov.mb.ca and can be submitted by email. Interveners must identify their reasons for intervention and be prepared to cooperate with other interveners to avoid duplication of interventions.

The Board may determine whether an intervener is entitled to costs for participating in the hearing and may fix the amount of those costs. Criteria defining the award of costs are described in the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedures which are also available on the website.

Intervener applicants may also wish to make written submissions regarding the scope of the process and to address any specific issues, beyond the mandatory review requirements that they seek to have the Board consider in the review process.

The Board will issue a procedural order dealing with scope, process and intervener status following the March 29th filing deadline.

Presenter Status

Those parties wishing to submit a written brief or to express oral comments to the Board are known as presenters. They should submit their written briefs or advise the Secretary of the Board of their intention to appear at the public hearing by no later than June 15, 2013.

Persons wishing to address the Hearing in French are required to notify the Board's Secretary prior to June 15, 2013.

Filing of Information

The Board will circulate all material filed in this matter by interveners and presenters to all participants on the Board's mailing list. Interested parties can examine these filings at the Board's office. Anyone desiring copies of the material filed should contact the Board.

The Board will determine those parties who have been granted intervener status and will set out a timetable for the orderly filing of information and confirm the hearing dates.

Procedure

The Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure will apply to the conduct of these hearings. All Interveners must familiarize themselves with the Board's requirements. This document is viewable on the Board's website or is available upon request to the Secretary of the Board at 400 - 330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0C4 or by calling (204) 945-2638 or 1-866-854-3698 (toll free). The Board's email address is publicutilities@gov.mb.ca.

Hollis M. Singh
Secretary, Public Utilities Board

Five days notice required.

Wheelchair access is available.

Manitoba

Insane wife killer. Court tosses province's claim to life insurance payout

Ontario's Superior Court of Justice has ruled it would be "manifestly harsh" and "clearly not in the interests of justice" to order cash from a murdered woman's life insurance policy to go to the province rather than to the mentally ill husband who killed her.

The case involved Ved Dhingra, who killed his wife Kamlesh in 2006 but was found not criminally responsible due to a mental disorder.

While the court agreed with the province's argument that the life insurance payout claimed by Dhingra was proceeds of unlawful activity, it found it would not be just for Dhingra to forfeit the funds and consequently dismissed the Attorney General's application. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Civil Remedies Act

The Civil Remedies Act, enacted in 2002, aims to prevent criminals from profiting from wrongdoing.

- It does not exempt a person found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder.

Unscheduled landing

Boozy passenger disrupts flight

An Air Transat flight from Vancouver to the United Kingdom had to make an unscheduled landing in Nunavut because of a drunken and unruly passenger.

RCMP said the plane was diverted early Wednesday to the territorial capital of Iqaluit because the 39-year-old man was belligerent and acting aggressively.

He had to be restrained by flight attendants and other passengers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cop killer found not criminally responsible

Mental illness. Three psychiatrists testified man was psychotic at the time he killed Toronto officer while on snowplow rampage

A man who killed a Toronto police officer with a snowplow showed no emotion Wednesday when he was found not criminally responsible.

Jurors reached the verdict in the trial of Richard Kachkar, 46, in the third day of deliberations.

The verdict means the jury believed Kachkar couldn't appreciate what he was doing when he hit and killed Sgt. Ryan Russell, 35, on Jan. 12, 2011, because he was mentally ill.

People who are found not criminally responsible are sent to mental health facilities for an indeterminate period of time and can be released only when a review board finds they aren't a significant threat to public safety.

But the judge in the case still allowed Russell's family to deliver victim impact statements.

Speaking directly to Kachkar, Russell's father Glenn said Kachkar had smashed his family into pieces.

"You have no idea how much grief and pain you have caused," he said. "When you ran my son down with that plow and left him bleeding to death in the snow, a large part of myself died."

The judge had told the jury there was "no doubt" Kachkar was driving the stolen snowplow, but what the jury had to consider was his mental state.

The man from St. Catharines, Ont., drove the plow around the city, hitting vehicles and crossing into oncoming traffic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A man who killed Toronto police Sgt. Ryan Russell, pictured, with a snowplow has been found not criminally responsible. TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

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Cyprus limits bank transfers

Emergency measures. Banks open Thursday after new tax imposed on large accounts

Cyprus has imposed limits on money transfers and hired extra security guards as it prepares for the planned reopening Thursday of its banks, which have been closed for almost two weeks to avoid a run during the country's financial drama.

A banking official said Wednesday that new controls will include restrictions on large-scale transfers from the country's two largest and most troubled lenders, Bank of Cyprus and Laiki. Both are being restructured and big depositors face losses of up to 40 per cent.

Authorities are looking to increase the daily withdrawal limit from 100 euros to 300 euros (from $130 to $386), while payroll payments will be allowed in order to help businesses, which have taken a huge hit as people cut down on their spending amid the uncertainty swirling about the banks.

The restrictions will be kept for at least a week until the situation stabilizes, said an official.

Meanwhile, private security firm G4S will dispatch 180 of its staff to all bank branches on the island to keep a lid on any possible trouble, said John Argyrou, managing director of the firm's Cypriot arm.

Cyprus's banking sector grew to nearly eight times the size of the country's economy, mainly on the back of substantial deposits from Russia, sparking accusations the country was being used by Russian criminals to launder their money.

Banks closed March 16 as politicians scrambled to come up with a plan to raise 5.8 billion euros ($7.5 billion) that would qualify the country for bailout loans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman uses an ATM outside a closed bank in Cyprus, which has taken measures to qualify for a bailout loan. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Universities. Tuition rising faster than inflation

A child born in Canada today could pay more than $140,000 for a four-year university degree, a new Bank of Montreal report says.

The report shows that tuition costs have been rising faster than inflation at times. In the early 1990s, average undergraduate fees in Canada were $1,464. Today, they are $5,581.

And while inflation was only 1.3 per cent in 2012, tuition fees increased 4.3 per cent.

The bank reached the $140,000 estimate using its education-savings calculator, which takes into account province, school, housing costs and inflation.

"It could be a very shocking sticker price if (parents) haven't saved for their child's education," said Chris Buttigieg, senior manager of wealth planning strategy at BMO and an author of the report.

Canadian university graduates are already struggling with an average debt load of $27,000, according to the Canadian Federation of Students. A four-year degree currently costs about $60,000. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

To catch a wolf

Ross Hurd looks at signs of wolves, including tracks, near his ranch south of Wenatchee, Wash. on Tuesday. Wildlife agents are investigating the death of a pregnant cow at the Hurd ranch. The Hurd family suspects that a pair of wolves, one later seen about 500 yards from a dead, pregnant cow, brought it down. Wildlife experts are testing for the cause of death. DON SEABROOK/THE WENATCHEE WORLD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Assad appeals for end to Syrian civil war at summit

In a letter. Syrian president asked leaders of five nations to 'work for an immediate cessation of violence'

Syrian rebel fighter Tawfiq Hassan, 23, poses for a picture in this August 2012 file photo at a rebel headquarters in Marea on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria. The country's President Bashar Assad sent a letter calling for help from leaders of five nations at an economic meeting Wednesday in South Africa to end his country's civil war.

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Syria's increasingly isolated president sent a letter calling for help from leaders of five nations at an economic meeting Wednesday in South Africa to help end his country's civil war.

Bashar Assad's appeal to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa came a day after the Arab League endorsed Syria's Western-backed opposition coalition, allowing it to take the country's seat at a summit in Doha, Qatar. The move drew strong condemnation from Damascus, which warned it will take "appropriate measures" to defend its sovereignty.

Attempts to end Syria's two-year-old conflict through peaceful means have failed to make progress. The opposition, including the main Syrian National Coalition, says it will accept nothing less than Assad's departure from power while Assad's government has vowed to continue the battle until the rebel forces — which it refers to as terrorists — are crushed.

"This requires a clear international will to dry up the sources of terrorism and stop its funding and arming," Assad said in the letter, which was carried by Syrian state media on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fleeing Syria. Kenney working on plans if asked for help with refugee crisis

Government officials are bracing for the possibility Canada is asked to take in people fleeing the ongoing conflict in Syria, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said Wednesday.

But a large-scale resettlement program won't resolve the growing refugee crisis, Kenney admitted.

"We're talking about millions of either convention refugees or non-registered de facto refugees or internally displaced persons in Syria," Kenney said after announcing the expansion of a resettlement program for Bhutanese refugees.

"And anyone who thinks we can just bring people in by the tens of thousands doesn't understand the complexity of the situation."

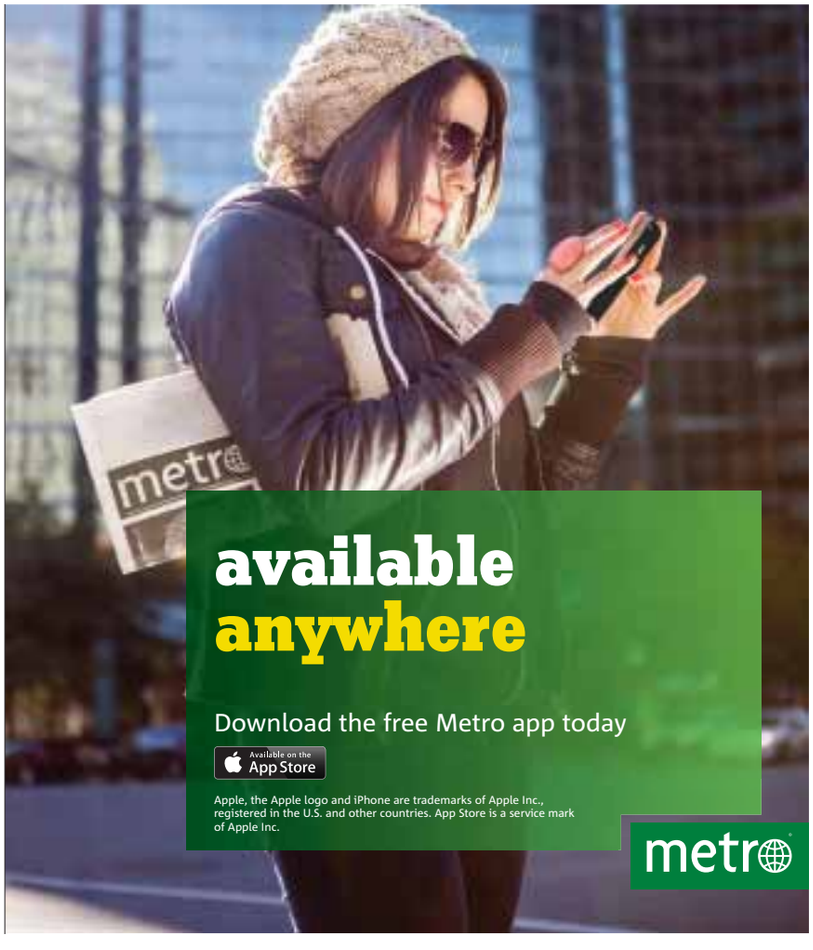
Kenney has come under repeated criticism from Syrian-Canadian groups and refugee advocates for failing to provide a concrete strategy for the growing refugee problem caused by the two-year-old civil war.

The United Nations estimates more than a million people have left the country since 2011 — a number they say could eventually triple if no solution is found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Screening process

- Immigration Minister Jason Kenney cautioned that if a resettlement program were created, there would be strict controls.
- "There is a terrible bloody war going on and there's frankly blood on a lot of people's hands, both on the part of the regime and many of the opposition militias," he said. "We would have to be very careful about security screening and admissibility for anyone seeking to come in to a program like that."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**Dates subject to change. While quantities last.

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Radical cleric

Efforts to deport convicted terrorist foiled once again

A radical Muslim cleric thwarted another effort by Britain to have him deported to Jordan after a court accepted arguments Wednesday that he would face testimony obtained by torture.

Britain wants to deport Abu Qatada to Jordan, where he was convicted in absentia for terror plots in 1999 and 2000. British governments have been trying since 2001 to remove the Islamist cleric.

But the man described by prosecutors as a key al-Qaida operative in Europe has successfully fought deportation in British and European courts. The British government pledged to fight on, despite the loss in the Court of Appeal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rising tension

North Korea cuts remaining radio ties with South

Raising tensions with South Korea yet again, North Korea cut its last military hotline with Seoul on Wednesday, saying there was no need to continue military communications between the countries in a situation "where a war may break out at any moment."

The hotline — a dedicated telephone link between the two militaries — was used mainly to arrange for South Koreans who work at an industrial complex in the North to cross the heavily armed border. When the connection was last severed in 2009, some workers were stranded in the North.

Normal direct telephone communications do not exist between the two countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fairer cellphone rules for Manitobans

New legislation gives you greater consumer rights for your cellphone and puts Manitoba in the forefront of consumer cellphone protection.

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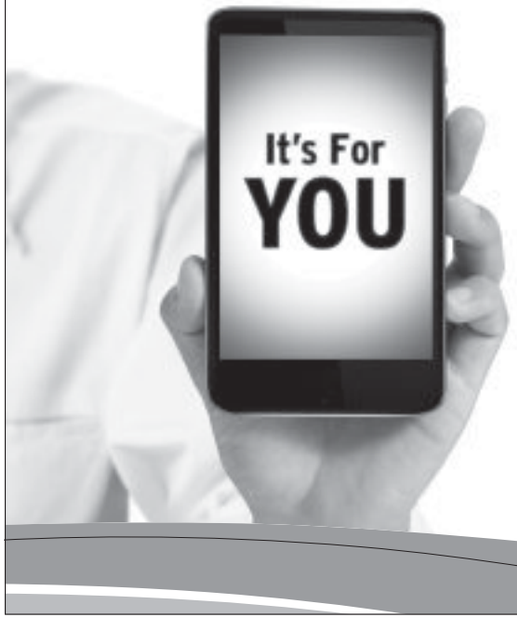

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Focused on what matters most

Manitoba

Police set up a cordon after a bomb exploded at the home of a Greek ship owner, opposite the Acropolis in central Athens on Wednesday.

DIMITRI MESSINIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomb explodes near Athens' Acropolis

Tourist site. Small blast follows a string of recent attacks by anarchist groups

A bomb exploded outside a Greek ship owner's house near a crowded pedestrian area under the Acropolis in central Athens on Wednesday night, causing minor damage but no injuries, police said.

The explosion a few hundred metres from the country's most famous monument occurred at about 8:30 p.m., after a warning call to a Greek newspaper.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which follows a string of bomb attacks in the financially-struggling country by anarchist groups that have caused no major injuries or loss of life.

Police spokesman Panagiotis Papapetropoulos said officers were able before the blast to evacuate one or two people from the building and to seal off the area.

"It can't have been a very strong explosive device," he said.

The house belongs to a member of the Tsakos ship owning family, police said.

The blast, which was heard across the city centre, occurred very close to one of the Greek capital's favourite pedestrian walks that skirts the key tourist site of the Acropolis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anarchists

Earlier this month, militant anarchists claimed responsibility for a bombing at a package shipping firm in Athens, and threatened further attacks on judges, police and witnesses in a terrorism trial.

Pakistani heir

Bhutto's son may keep low profile in upcoming election

The re-election prospects for Pakistan's outgoing ruling party are looking even tougher after indications emerged this week that one of its star vote-getters — the young son of assassinated prime minister Benazir Bhutto — will play a less prominent role in the campaign because of security concerns and political infighting.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari — widely referred to by his first name to distinguish him from the rest of the family — is the only male heir to the political dynasty started by his grandfather Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who served as president and prime minister but was overthrown in a coup and executed in 1979. The father's legacy was continued by his daughter, Benazir Bhutto, until her death in a gun and bomb attack in 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NADbank. 1.6M Canadians read Metro every day

The numbers are in — according to the latest NADbank newspaper research, 1.6 million Canadians from Halifax to Vancouver reach for a Metro newspaper every morning to find out what happened in their communities and around the globe while they slept, an increase of nine per cent over last year.

Every week, 3.9 million Canadians turn to their Metro for the latest news, an increase of 16 per cent. And that's only part of the story.

Metro Canada's total brand footprint — print, digital paper, website and news app — has reached a record 1.8 million daily readers and 4.1 million weekly readers.

"We've heard lots of chatter about the death of newspapers," says Bill McDonald, President of Metro English Canada. "But the truth is, more Canadians than ever before are turning to newspapers across all their platforms, and the growth has been driven by a combination of free dailies and digital properties.

"Our readers — active metropolitans — expect news, information and entertainment from the paper, the app and online, and these numbers tell us we're delivering on that expectation." METRO

Record brand footprint

4.1M

Metro Canada's total brand footprint — print, digital paper, website and news app — has reached a record 1.8 million daily readers and 4.1 million weekly readers.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.38¢ (-0.01¢)

TSX 12,699.65 (-6.73)

OIL $96.58 US (+24¢)

GOLD $1,606.20 US (+$10.50)

Natural gas: $4.08 US (+9¢)
Dow Jones: 14,526.16 (-33.49)

February inflation shows biggest jump in over 2 decades

Inflation shock. Hike in gasoline prices fuelled month-to-month rise — but figure is likely to be viewed as an anomaly

A steep increase in gasoline prices from January to February helped drive up consumer prices in Canada by a surprisingly strong 1.2 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Consumer prices in Canada jumped by a surprisingly strong 1.2 per cent in February as a big hike in gasoline helped fuel the biggest month-to-month pop in inflation since January 1991 when Ottawa introduced the GST.

The one-month increase lifted the Canadian annual inflation rate by 0.7 point, also to 1.2 per cent, reversing a trend that had reduced annual inflation to 0.5 per cent in January, the lowest in more than three years.

Economists had expected inflation to start edging up, particularly as gasoline prices were known to have risen, but their best estimate was for a year-to-year increase of 0.8 per cent and a month-to-month increase of 0.7 per cent.

Despite the one-month inflation shock, analysts said Canadians had little to worry about and that the Bank of Canada will likely discount the report as an anomaly.

Derek Holt, vice-president of economics with Scotia Capital, noted the steep increase in gasoline prices from January to February — 8.4 per cent — is not being repeated in March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yoga pants recall

No need to bend over: Lululemon

Lululemon said Wednesday that no demonstrations of yoga or any other positions are needed to return the pricey black yoga pants that the company pulled from shelves last week after finding they were too sheer.

"We do not require guests to demonstrate the sheerness of their bottoms," said Sari Martin, who works for communications firm ICR and spoke on behalf of Lululemon.

The statement comes a day after a New York Post report recounted one woman's tale of being asked by sales staff to bend over to prove the pants she was trying to return were sheer. Martin would not comment on the specific instance recounted by the Post, but said Wednesday that this is not standard policy for Lululemon staffers.

To the contrary, she said that people who bought the black Luon yoga pants since March 1, either online or in store, can return them for a full refund, "no questions asked." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sleeping on the job

Professional hotel guest wanted

Hotel Finn in the heart of Helsinki, Finland is seeking a "professional sleeper" for 35 days to test their rooms and blog all about it. Hotel manager Tio Tikka says he thought up the stunt to help promote the hotel after lengthy renovations. Requirements: Fluent Finnish and English, Russian a plus. The job opens May 17 with applications closing end of April. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weather, disasters cost $78B in insurance losses

Homes wrecked by Superstorm Sandy are pictured on Oct. 31, 2012, in Seaside Heights, N.J. GETTY IMAGES FILE

The world's second-largest reinsurer says natural catastrophes and man-made disasters cost the insurance industry about $78 billion in 2012, the third costliest year on record.

Swiss Re says the more than 300 catastrophes and disasters, which caused the loss of 14,000 lives, were mostly due to "large scale weather events" in the United States such as Superstorm Sandy. Sandy accounted for $35.6 billion of insured losses — nearly half the total worldwide.

Storm damage

$35.6B

Superstorm Sandy accounted for $35.6 billion of insured losses, nearly half the worldwide total in 2012.

But the Zurich-based firm noted in a statement Wednesday the losses were well down from 2011, when record earthquakes and flooding in Asia Pacific region caused the highest ever recorded losses of more than $128 billion.

Kurt Karl, Swiss Re's chief economist, says "large parts of the globe that are prone to weather extremes" were uninsured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hacking. U.S. restricts government purchases of Chinese technology

The U.S. has taken its first real swipe at China following accusations that Beijing is behind a widespread and systemic hacking campaign targeting U.S. businesses.

Buried in a spending bill signed by President Barack Obama on Tuesday is a provision that effectively bars much of the federal government from buying information technology made by companies linked to the Chinese government.

It's unclear what impact the legislation will have, or whether it will turn out to be a symbolic gesture. The provision only affects certain non-defence government agency budgets between now and Sept. 30, when the fiscal year ends. It also allows for exceptions if an agency head determines that buying the technology is "in the national interest of the United States."

Still, the rule could upset U.S. allies whose businesses rely on Chinese manufacturers for parts and pave the way for broader, more permanent changes in how the U.S. government buys technology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Section 516

In March, the U.S. computer security firm Mandiant released details on what it said was an aggressive hacking campaign on American businesses by a Chinese military unit.

- U.S. lawmakers tucked "section 516" into the budget resolution.
- The provision prohibits the Commerce and Justice departments, NASA and the National Science Foundation from buying an information technology system that is "produced, manufactured or assembled" by any entity that is "owned, operated or subsidized" by China.

Walmart predicts bribery probes will hurt bottom line

SEC filing. Retailer said in November it was looking into potential U.S. bribery law violations in Brazil, China and India

Produce in a Walmart store in Mexico City, Mexico. Walmart is conducting investigations over allegations Walmart de Mexico orchestrated a campaign of bribery to win market dominance. DANIEL AGUILAR/GETTY IMAGES

The world's biggest retailer, Walmart, says it is likely that it will incur a loss from bribery probes into its operations in Mexico and other countries.

The company has been dealing with allegations that surfaced last April that it failed to notify law enforcement that company officials authorized millions of dollars in payments in Mexico to speed up getting building permits and gain other favours. The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act forbids American companies from bribing foreign officials. The company has launched its own investigation and is working with government officials in the U.S. and Mexico.

In another filing Tuesday with the SEC, Walmart said it expects to incur costs above the $157 million it spent on the probes in fiscal 2013 due to its ongoing review and other investigations as well as shareholder lawsuits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serious offer?

Fongo wants to buy Wind Mobile

Waterloo, Ont.-based Fongo Inc. is making a bid to buy Wind Mobile's Canadian operations for $1 plus a 49 per cent equity ownership stake in Fongo.

Wind Mobile met the bid with sarcasm. Wind's chief regulatory officer Simon Lockie said on Twitter: "I hereby publicly offer to buy Fongo for $1 and half my sandwich."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

eMarketer predicts

Twitter's revenue will double: Firm

A research firm expects Twitter's ad revenue to double this year as the online messaging service delivers more marketing pitches aimed at consumers using smartphones and tablet computers.

In a report Wednesday, eMarketer projected that Twitter's ad revenue will climb from an estimated $288 million last year to $583 million this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newfoundland

Seal processing plant gets $3.6M

A seal processing plant in Newfoundland will get a $3.6-million loan from the government to buy seal pelts and blubber from this year's hunt.

Humane Society International condemned the loan as a wasteful subsidy intended to prop up a dying business. But Fisheries Minister Derrick Dalley said the seal hunt is humane and sustainable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Read metro your money every Tuesday for financial tips, trends and advice.

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HEY FANS, CAN I HITCH A RIDE?

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Forgive me, true blue Blue Jays fans, for I have sinned. It has been 20 years since my last celebration. But this Prodigal Fan has returned, contrite, and ready to brush the home plate clean. I'm sorry.

I feel bad because I haven't cheered on the Jays since I was a teenager, way back when a major-league team could win a baseball championship without spending enough money to bail out Cyprus.

Twenty years ago, the Jays had an unusual nickname for a Toronto team: 'winners.' But after peaking in the early 1990s, the team settled into a couple of decades of mediocrity, like the baseball equivalent of The Simpsons, and I emphatically leapt from the bandwagon. Sorry.

Fast forward all the way to this off-season and the Blue Jays are finally expected to soar, because of a little thing called heart. Also: 70 googelty-gillion dollars, give or take. If you took all the $100 bills the Blue Jays have spent this off-season on new players and placed them end to end, you could flog a bunch of man-servants and order them to push the money into a big pile for you to swim in. That's how much money it is.

When I saw that the team was serious about winning, I jumped back on the Jays' bandwagon and bought a 20-ticket package. I feel guilty about it, but try to understand that this bandwagon has cool-looking spoilers and fancy rims and a lift kit that bounces to the bass of the OK, Blue Jays song. I'm so sorry.

Here's why I feel so guilty: As the frequent readers of this column know, I am a die-hard hockey fan of the sort who can tell you exactly where I was May 10, 1970, when Bobby Orr sailed through the air after scoring the Stanley Cup-winning goal for my Boston Bruins. That's right: I didn't exist yet.

So, bad example. But the point is I know when it happened, I know who passed him the puck, I know who the goalie was, I can name most of the team that fell on top of him even though I didn't start cheering for the logo on the sweater until two decades later.

I live and breathe the Boston Bruins. Wins improve my mood, losses sting like a puck in the shins.

The Blue Jays? Well, as I was writing this a friend asked me if I would join a fantasy baseball league. I laughed because I know nothing. To me, fantasy baseball is running the bases in slow motion and making out with Scarlett Johansson when I reach home plate.

Hence my guilt: I feel like I haven't earned the right to call myself a baseball fan. I haven't learned enough, and I haven't suffered enough.

But, in the end, that's why I decided to commit to baseball fandom. Because after a quarter-century of making myself sick, stressed, angry or distraught over hockey, I thought I'd try a sport where I can just relax and enjoy the game.

I know enough to have fun: I'm aware that about 20 years ago a player named Joe Carter hit a home run to win the World Series and leapt around the bases like he was 10. If someone on the new team could do that this year, that'd be swell.

I'll have a fine view from the bandwagon.

ZOOM

My sand, my preciousss

MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

For Gollum, life's a beach

Sand sculptor Radovan Zivny works on a sand sculpture of Gollum, a character from J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

This striking work is part of this year's Hollywood-themed annual Sand Sculpture festival in Weston-Super-Mare, England, due to open to the public on Good Friday.

Zivny, who has been sand sculpting for 15 years, uses basic implements to craft his works: a shovel, trowels, spatulas and a spoon. But the main challenge arises from how compact the sand is.

For the artist, sand sculpting at Weston-super-Mare is for the most part just about, "building an amusing park," he said. METRO WORLD NEWS

Lord of the Sand

"My work Gollum is all about expression, obsession and a sense of schizophrenia. I went for Gollum because he is a very unique character and has an interesting split personality. I think I managed to express him well enough."

Radovan Zivny, 39, sculptor and graphic designer from the Czech Republic, told Metro. The festival has existed since 2006, and has grown every year. The sculptures, which this year include Harry Potter, Batman, Yoda and more, take about two weeks to build.
Visit metronews.ca and check out our photo gallery.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Since we spend more time stuck in stupid real life than we do enjoying international tourist traps, it's up to webcams to allow us to live vicariously through them. Here are some streaming looks at some of the world's more unusual tourist spots.

Abbey Road

What's more entertaining than the persistent traffic-halting parade of people recreating a certain iconic album cover? Watching locals trying their best to politely dodge them. Click on abbeyroad.com/crossing

Panama Canal

A man, a plan, a canal and a webcam. Obviously, this unfolds at a leisurely pace, but checking in from time to time makes an impressive montage. Go to pancanal.com and click the multimedia tab.

Shibuya Crossing

Since my own attempts at filming a stroll across Tokyo's notoriously crowded scramble crossing ended up looking like Cloverfield, this is where I go to relive it. Visit goandroam.com, click Tokyo then Shibuya street cam.

Tweets

@metropicks asked: A man got $8K for the "pain" of listening to a Disney song over and over. What's your nightmare repeat song?

@Jer_Godfrey: my nightmare songs - barney theme song or anything from justin beiber!

@BrynnELangille: Mmm bop- Hanson

@mmmhustler403: I Knew You Were Trouble by Taylor Swift gave me a headache.

@hammertime9909: Bennie and the jets, no question about it. #benniebenniebennieben

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EB GAMES

Synopsis

Based on Hasbro's G.I. Joe toys and comics, Retaliation sees the G.I. Joe squad — Duke (Channing Tatum). Roadblock (Dwayne Johnson), Flint (D.J. Cotrona) and Lady Jaye (Adrianne Palicki) — framed for treason. Shut down by order of the president (Jonathan Pryce) they team with a rogue general, Joseph Colton (Bruce Willis), to battle venomous international terrorist organization Cobra and super villain Zartan (Arnold Vosloo).

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●○○○○

Channing Tatum and Dwayne Johnson flex their muscles in G.I. Joe: Retaliation. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

A real American no-no

Retaliation. Second instalment of the G.I. Joe series beats the tar out of viewers

Richard: Mark, I enjoyed watching GI Joe: Retaliation, but it wasn't the movie I thought it would be. It was written by the people who did Zombieland, so I expected a higher laugh to body count ratio. I didn't think it would be Zero Dark Funny or anything, but every now and again it would tease me with a line like, "They call it a water board, but I never got bored," that made me wish for more belly laughs and fewer bullets. What did you think?

Mark: The spirit of Michael Bay hangs over this movie like a shroud, suffocating it with inane plotting, cardboard characters and meth lab editing. I thought I disliked the first G.I. Joe but this one makes the original look like Citizen Kane. No wonder Charming Tater, or whatever his name is, had the smarts to limit his scenes to his contractual obligations only.

RC: This one makes the assumption that the audience has read the comics and knows the mythology surrounding the Joes (all you really need to know is that "Joes" rhymes with "heroes"), Cobra (the bad guys) and the various ninjas. That's where this movie lost me, story wise. I was glad the ninjas were there — there's a wild ninja chase in the middle of the movie — but their backstory muddies things up. Remind me again, is Storm Shadow a good guy or a bad guy?

MB: Couldn't tell. Same with the ninjas. They have a great scene on a mountain, though, the best in the movie. But otherwise, the film just crowds in as much action as possible, and hopes we'll find Jonathan Pryce as dastardly as he thinks he is. The rest of the cast seems a bit stunned by the plot, even The Rock, although Bruce Willis is a welcome arrival midway through. But it's like putting a fine béarnaise sauce on a rancid flank steak. In glorious 3D.

RC: I liked it more than you. I was content to sit back and watch things explode — the little flying bug bombs are cool — and watch The Rock flex his muscles, but I did feel the action scenes, while plentiful, were shot so that it was often difficult to tell who was beating the tar out of who.

MB: Me either, but in the end, I felt the movie was beating the tar out of me.

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In the mood for something Sinister?

The horror, the horror. Coming to a Cineplex theatre near you — four art-house flicks guaranteed to get your heart racing

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

There was a time when edgy, new exciting indie horror films would almost always find homes in movie theatres, a model that existed due to more adventurous audiences' hunger for films that didn't play by the traditional Hollywood blockbuster rules. With the advent of home video and the Internet, however, people are less inclined to take that big screen gamble and those wild and wooly weird movies end up going direct to DVD or VOD with little or no fanfare.

But Cineplex's Front Row Centre Events and Raven Banner Distribution aim to undo that unfortunate shift with their adventurous Sinister Cinema series, a monthly program that places four unique art-house horror films into 25 theatres across Canada, coupled with live talent appearances, skyped-in Q&A's and pre-recorded interviews. This may be your only chance to see these amazing, frightening and in some cases, completely outrageous pictures projected in a multiplex, with a full, appreciative audience, the way horror movies were meant to be seen.

Here's a peek at the quartet of creepers in question:

John Dies at the End (Opens: March 27)
Phantasm mastermind Don Coscarelli's utterly mad meditation on a drug called soy sauce that gives its addicts a euphoric, dimensional travelling high and then promptly turns many of them into monsters. Based on David Wong's equally demented novel, John stars genre star Clancy Brown and heavy hitter Paul Giamatti and is about as fevered and unclassifiable a film as it gets. And of course, that makes it an instant cult hit.

The Last Will and Testament of Rosalind Leigh (May 9)
Toronto horror hero Rodrigo Gudino (founder of Canadian genre magazine Rue Morgue) delivers a slow, strange supernatural drama about an antiques collector whose late mother's home is actually a shrine to an angelic cult. The immortal Vanessa Redgrave provides a supporting role.

American Mary (May 30)
From the social networking heroines The Soska Sisters comes this audacious, twisted and blackly comic thriller. In it Ginger Snaps star Katherine Isabelle plays a troubled med student who gets sucked into the perverse world of underground plastic surgery. Tons of lurid fun, not for the squeamish and filled with kinetic visuals and great, oddball pop music.

No One Lives (June 19)
Director Ryuhei Kitamura (Versus, Midnight Meat Train) delivers a gory and engrossing thriller where good and evil simply do not exist. There's only bad people and well, badder people. When a gang of thugs discover a crime scene witness in a jacked car, they think she'll be worth a pretty penny. Until they learn that the young woman in question is far from innocent.

The Sinister Cinema series kicks off with John Dies at the End. HANDOUT

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAR. 29 TO THURS., APR. 4 . TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Cinema City McGillivray
2190 McGillivray Blvd.

Admission (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:35-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:35-10:25
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:25-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:25-7-9:30
Esmeralda Encore Presentation - Bolshoi Ballet (STC) Sun 12:55
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 4:50-7:40-10:20 Wed 4:10-7:40-10:20 Thu 4:50-7:40-10:20
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 4:20-7:40-10:35 Mon 7:40 Tue 7:40-10:35 Wed-Thu 7:40 Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7:05-9:45
The Host (PG) Fri-Sun 1:55-4:55-7:45-10:35 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:45-10:35
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Tue 7:25-10:15 Wed 10:15 Thu 7:25-10:15
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10 Mon-Thu 4:10
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:15-10:10 Fri-Sat 3:30-7-10:05 Sun 2:40-7-10:05 Mon 8:20 Tue 7-10:05 Wed-Thu 8:20
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:10-10:05 Fri-Sat 2:40-6-9:20 Sun 6-9:20 Mon 7 Tue 6-9:20 Wed-Thu 7

Cinema City Northgate
1399 McPhillips Street

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Fri-Sun 9:20 Mon-Thu 7:50 Django Unchained (18A) Fri-Sun 1-4:45-8:20 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:35
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3-6:45-10:10 Mon-Thu 5-8:30
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Parker (18A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-6:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45-5-7:10 Mon-Thu 5:15
Warm Bodies (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:05
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:10

Cinematheque
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Entre les Bras (STC) Fri-Sat 9 Thu 9
Le Grand Amour (STC) Fri-Sat 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun-Tue
Yoyo (STC) Wed-Thu 7

Famous Players Kildonan Place
1555 Regent Ave W

The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:50
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30
The Host (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:50-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 6-8:40
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
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Admission (PG) l Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10 l Mon-Wed 4-7:10-10 l Thu 4-7:10
The Croods (G) l Fri-Sun 12:35-9:20 l Mon-Thu 9:20
The Croods 3D (G) l Fri-Thu 3:25-6:35 Evil Dead (18A) l, Thu 10:05
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (14A) l, Fri-Sun 12:20
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (14A) l, Fri-Thu 3:20-7:05-9:50 The Host (PG) l Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:40-9:35 l Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:35 Jurassic Park 3D (STC) l Thu 10
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) l Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-9:55 l Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:55
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) l Fri-Sun 12:15-9:45 l Mon-Thu 9:45
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) l Fri-Thu 3:30-6:50
Quartet (PG) l Fri 6:30-9:15 l Sat-Sun 12:50-3:15-6:30-9:15 l Mon-Wed 3:15-6:30-9:15 l Thu 3:15-6:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) l Fri 6:45-9:40 l Sat-Sun 12:25-3:40-6:45-9:40 l Mon-Thu 3:40-6:45-9:40
Toonie Matinee - Parental Guidance (STC) l Fri 12:50-3:15
Toonie Matinee - The Smurfs (STC) l Fri 12:25-3:40

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place
Y003-393 Portage Avenue

Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Fri 6:30 Sat 1:15
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Sat 2:30
Egypt 3D: Secrets of the Mummies (STC) Fri 12 Sat 6:30 Everest (STC) Fri 3:45 Sat 7:30 Heart Land (STC) Sun 12-2:15-2:30-3:45
Hubble 3D (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 8:45
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Fri 7:30 Sat 3:45 To the Arctic 3D (STC) Sat 12
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Fri 2:30-8:45

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave

Amour (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sun 4
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-10
Stoker (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50

Landmark Towne Cinema 8
301 Notre Dame Avenue

The Call (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:30 Mon-Wed 7:15-9:30 Thu 7:15
The Croods (G) Fri-Sun 3:30
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Dead Man Down (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Evil Dead (18A) Thu 10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (14A) Fri-Sun 3:30
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 1-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
The Host (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15

SilverCity Polo Park
815 St. James Street

21 and Over (18A) Fri 1:15-3:35-6-8:25-10:50 Sat 10:55-1:15-3:35-6-8:25-10:50 Sun-Mon 1:15-3:35-6-8:25-10:50 Tue-Thu 12:25-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:20
Admission (PG) Fri 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:45 Sat 2:45-5:20-8-10:45 Sun-Mon 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:45 Tue-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:20-9:55 The Call (14A) Fri 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Sat 10:55-1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Sun 3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Mon 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Tue 12:15-2:30-5:10-7:35-10 Wed-Thu 12:15-2:30-5:10-7:35
The Croods (G) Fri 1:40-4:10 Sat 11-1:40-4:10 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:10
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Fri 7-9:30 Sat 11-7-9:30 Sun-Thu 7-9:30 Esmeralda Encore Presentation - Bolshoi Ballet (STC) Sun 12:55
Evil Dead (18A) Thu 10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Sat 12:35-3-5:30-8-10:45 Sun-Mon 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:45 Tue-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:30
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (14A) Fri 1:55-4:35-7:30-10:15 Sat 11:15-1:55-4:35-7:30-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:30-10:15
The Host (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 4:30-7:30-10:30 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Identity Thief (14A) Fri 1:35-4:20-7:05-9:50 Sat 11-1:35-7:05-9:50 Sun-Tue 1:35-4:20-7:05-9:50 Wed 1:35-4:20-9:50 Thu 1:35-4:20-7:05-9:50
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Tue-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun-Wed 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Thu 1:30-4:25-7:10
Jurassic Park 3D (STC) Thu 10
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:20-7:10-10:05 Wed 4:20-7:10-10:05 Thu 1:25-4:20-7:10-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Mon 1:10 Tue-Thu 1
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 4:15-7:20-10:25 Tue-Thu 4:05-7:20-10:25
Spring Breakers (18A) Fri 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:35 Sat 10:55-12:30-4:25-5:50-8:15-10:35 Sun 1-4:50-8:15-10:35 Mon 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:35 Tue 12:45-3:10-5:35-8-10:20 Wed 12:45-3:10-7:30-10:20 Thu 12:45-3:10-5:35-8-10:20
Spy Kids (PG) Sat 11
The Ten Commandments (STC) Sat 12:30 Wed 6:30

SilverCity St. Vital
110-1225 St Mary's Rd

The Croods (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:05-4:40 Mon-Wed 2:05-4:40 Thu 4:40 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
The Croods 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:05
Esmeralda Encore Presentation - Bolshoi Ballet (STC) Sun 12:55
Evil Dead (18A) Thu 10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35-10:15 Sun 1:45-4:35-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:25-7-9:35 Fri-Sat 12-2:35-5:20-8-10:45 Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:20-5:05-7:45-10:20 The Host (PG) Fri-Sat 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:20-10:15 Mon-Wed 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1 Identity Thief (14A) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:30-5:05-7:45-10:20 Sun 4:25-7-9:35 Mon-Wed 1:25-4-6:50-9:30 Thu 1:25-4-6:50
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG) Fri 11:55-2:25-5-7:40-10:10 Sat 2:25-5-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:05-2:30-5-7:35-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:25-5-7:35-10:10
Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 10:55-1:35-4:20-7:15-10 Sun 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:25
Olympus Has Fallen (14A) Fri-Sat 11:05-1:45-4:35-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:55
Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) Fri-Sat 11:10-2 Sun 12:35 Mon-Thu 1:20
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:55-7:50-10:40 Sun 3:35-6:35-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:55-9:45
Spy Kids (PG) Sat 11

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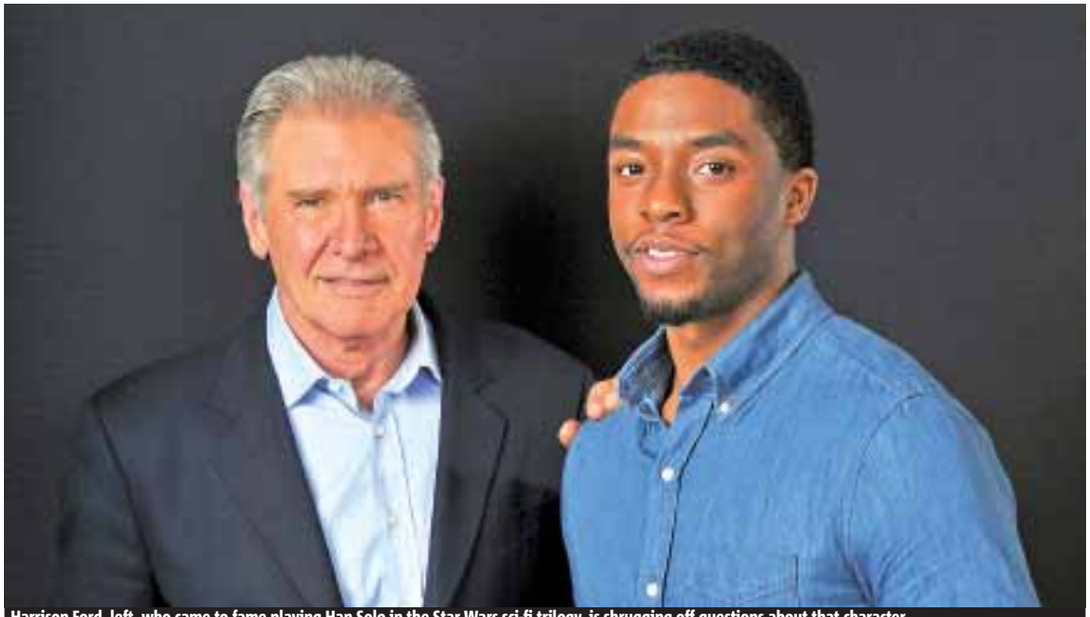
Ford playing coy on Star Wars sequels

Han Solo. The scruffy nerf herder declines to discuss what role — if any — he may have in the new J.J. Abrams movies



Harrison Ford, left, who came to fame playing Han Solo in the Star Wars sci-fi trilogy, is shrugging off questions about that character while promoting his new film 42. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harrison Ford isn't ready — "yet" — to talk about his reported part in Disney's planned Star Wars sequel, but he praises its director, J.J. Abrams.

"I think he's fantastic," Ford said in a recent interview. "I did his first movie, Regarding Henry, with Mike Nichols. A wonderful talent. Extraordinary guy."

The 70-year-old actor — who came to fame playing Han Solo in the Star Wars trilogy — is shrugging off questions about that character while promoting his role as Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey in the upcoming Jackie Robinson film 42.

Asked how he feels generally that the Star Wars sequel and Disney spinoffs are in the works, Ford responded: "I don't feel anything at the moment yet."

In an article published earlier this month, Star Wars creator George Lucas told Bloomberg Businessweek that Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher had been in negotiations to return to the franchise even before Lucasfilm was sold to Disney last fall.

Quoted

"I think he's fantastic. I did his first movie, Regarding Henry, with Mike Nichols. A wonderful talent. Extraordinary guy."

Harrison Ford
Talking about working with J.J. Abrams on previous films.

Was Ford surprised by that announcement?

He makes the universal zipping-my-lips sign.

Asked what it will take to get him to commit to play Han Solo again, Ford said, "Um, I don't even want to discuss that. It's great. Ain't it great?"

It's been over two decades since Abrams wrote the Regarding Henry screenplay. Have the two chatted recently?

"About what?" Ford asked, smirking and taking a slow sip from a cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hannibal keeps a sense of style to their murders

Director David Slade arrives at the premiere of 30 Days of Night. He is now helming the Hannibal series. CHRIS CARLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS ALEXANDER
Metro World News

The new series Hannibal is the brainchild of Heroes writer Bryan Fuller, who brings his manic energy and dedicated vision to the show and has, for his director, a man who is no stranger to horror: David Slade, helmer of the stylized vampire classic 30 Days of Night. He was brought on to direct the pilot but stayed on to ensure the style of Hannibal remained consistent in tone ... and in darkness.

"The usual process with a director on a pilot is that the producers hire him, he does the job, they kick him out, they get a royalty," Slade told us.

"But here I stayed on. They brought me in, embraced my ideas and we created a look and a sound and they kept me here to maintain it. It's a family and I'm totally dedicated to this show."

The Hannibal crew may be a family, but it is decidedly not a family show. Rather, it pushes the boundaries on just how much blood and horror can be allowed on American network television. Bullets tear flesh, blades open wounds, violently dispatched bodies in all manner of decay litter morgues and in the second episode, men and women are buried alive, their flesh then used to grow edible fungus. It's a nasty piece of work indeed. Laurence Fishburne, who stars in Hannibal, is no stranger to on-screen television gore, having served time in the hit series CSI, but he insists the murders here are even more devious.

The art of the kill

"Now they want creative ways in which people are murdered. There's a creative flair here."

Laurence Fishburne
Who plays the head of the FBI's behavioral science unit in Hannibal.

"The funny thing about CSI was that they were always trying to find interesting, weird, unexpected ways in which people had died," he says, "and in this show, they have a little more license. Now they want creative ways in which people are murdered. There's a creative flair here. In CSI it was all accidents and murderers but this is serial killers, every week, people with dramatic bravado."

With the success of such programs as AMC's The Walking Dead, HBO's True Blood and Showtime's Dexter kicking down the gates for what sort of visceral violence can be shown in prime time television, the ample gruesomeness in Hannibal might cause some alarm in more sensitive viewers and will no doubt court some controversy. But Fishburne is adamant that the violence is a necessary evil to add gravitas to the program's intensity.

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No achy breaky hearts for O'Dowd

The Sapphires. Actor's attitude toward country music parallels his character's beliefs about the genre

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

"Country and western music," says Chris O'Dowd, "is a very easy thing to deride."

In The Sapphires O'Dowd plays an Irish musician playing piano in Australia's outback bars in exchange for beer money. His life is spiraling downward until he discovers a group made up of four of talented Indigenous Australian sisters. Trouble is, he doesn't like the music they sing.

"When I met you," he says in the film, "you were doing all country and western things and that's fine, we all make mistakes."

For O'Dowd that speech was art imitating life. "My dad played guitar in pubs playing country and western music," he says. "So I feel like the whole speech I do about country and western music is something that has been pent up in me since I was 14. Carrying his guitar case to listen to bad Merle Haggard tracks."

"Country and western music is huge in Ireland. I don't know why. It's all Kris Kristofferson and a bit of Willie Nelson and Clint Black. Dad was really into it. Maybe it's that country and western has some origins in bluegrass and bluegrass has origins in Irish music. There's something going on there. And Irish people love a good whine. We're great at it."

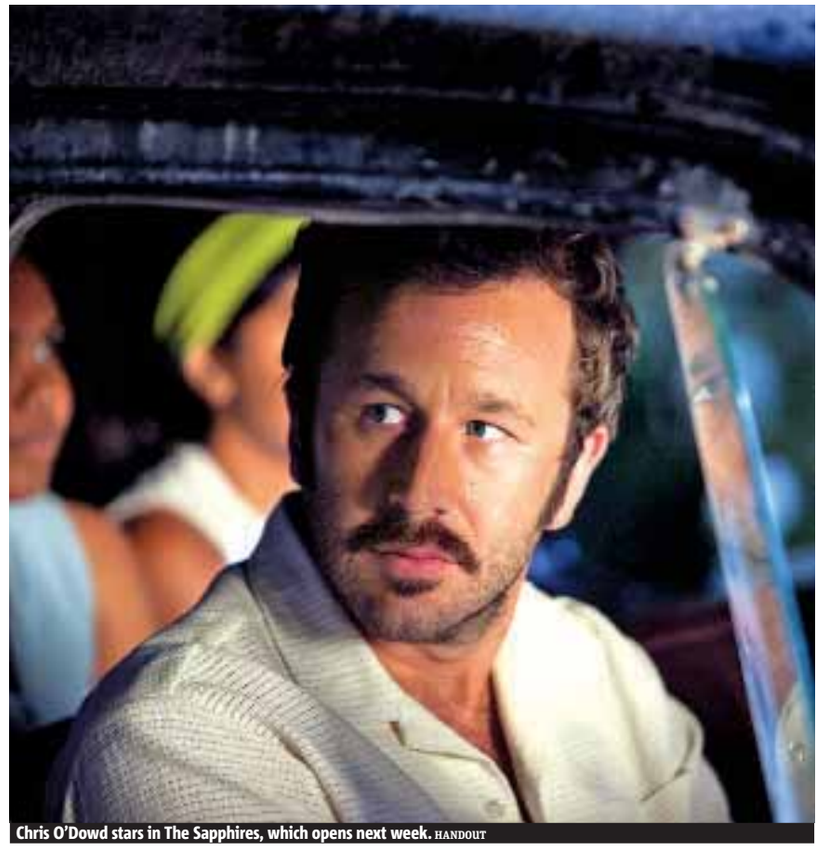
In the film he convinces the girls to trade country for soul music and shapes them into a version of The Supremes.

"I wrote this speech about how country music is about loss, but soul music is also about loss — you've lost but you haven't given up — and that has a nice payoff in the film.

"Country music is kind of whiny," he says. "He left me, now what am I going to do with my life? Whereas soul music is like, 'I'm going to get that bugger back.' It's nice. It's a nice turning point in the film where we're not going to feel sorry for ourselves. That's an important element for the entire story. About moving on."

Thinking back on his teenage years, he speculates if his attitude might have been different if dear old dad had sung a different kind of music.

"I wonder if he had been an amazing Al Green-esque songster if I would have still said, 'This is so lame.' I wonder sometimes with people whose parents are cool. I've been working with Rashida Jones recently and I'm like, 'How can you not think your dad is cool?'"



Chris O'Dowd stars in The Sapphires, which opens next week. HANDOUT

The Voice, Dancing With the Stars make strong returns to TV

Ratings success. Usher and Shakira power NBC rally as talent show pulls in 13.6 million for spring season premiere

Two popular reality shows made a splash upon their re-entry during the past week — and a new one had a strong debut.

A new episode of Dancing With the Stars premiered on ABC last week before 17 million viewers, just behind CBS drama NCIS as the week's most popular program. It was down to 14.5 million Monday night, facing competition from the return of The Voice on NBC.

The Voice, with Usher and Shakira as new cast members, premiered its spring season before 13.6 million on Monday, the Nielsen company said. Those are welcome numbers for NBC, which has been starved for viewers.

There's also likely to be a healthy rivalry with Fox's American Idol for the rest of the TV season. Idol reached 12.9 million viewers last Wednesday and 11.9 million viewers for its Thursday edition. Fox points out that when Idol debuted its new season in January, it did so with nearly 18 million viewers, far more than The Voice.

NBC is encouraged by the relatively youthful appeal of its show. An estimated 6.1 million viewers of The Voice on Monday were in the 18-to-49-year-old demographic that advertisers seek. Idol last Wednesday had 4.5 million young viewers. Dancing With the Stars skews much older; its viewership in the young demographic was 3.1 million on Monday.

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Usher is hosting The Voice, which garnered 13.6 million viewers Monday. HANDOUT

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MTS
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Timberlake. Album promotion had 20/20 vision on how to succeed

Justin Timberlake's comeback album has sold nearly one million units its first week out.

Nielsen SoundScan announced Tuesday that the singer's third album, The 20/20 Experience, has moved 968,000 units. It's the 19th album in Nielsen's 22-year history that has sold more than 900,000 albums in its debut week.

20/20 is Timberlake's third album and the follow-up to his multiplatinum, Grammy-winning 2006 album, FutureSex/LoveSounds. The new CD features the pop hit Suit & Tie.

"The numbers are pleasantly surprising," said Tom Corson, the president and chief operating officer of RCA Records, which released Timberlake's album.

The label had projected that 20/20 would sell 500,000 to 600,000 units, Corson said. Timberlake, 31, was strategic about promoting his comeback effort. He performed at the Grammy Awards, hosted and hit the stage at Saturday Night Live and spent an entire week on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon. The singer also partnered with Target for the album's deluxe edition and 20/20 streamed on iTunes a week before it was released.

Timberlake came up with the idea of a weeklong stint himself, Fallon said.

"I think he mentioned it to me like a year ago that he's working on something and wanted to do a week on our show," Fallon said Tuesday.

20/20 is an unconventional album that features a mesh of R&B, soul, pop and futuristic sounds. The 10 tracks average seven minutes each.

Corson believes Timberlake's key to promoting the album was "less is more."

"While it felt like he was everywhere, he didn't do a lot of things because he didn't have to. But he did big things," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Albums

Of the 19 albums to sell more than 900,000 in their debut week, Timberlake holds three slots

- **Numbers.** His albums with 'N Sync in 2000 and 2001 sold 2.4 million and 1.9 million in their first week.

Justin Timberlake is swimming in success. HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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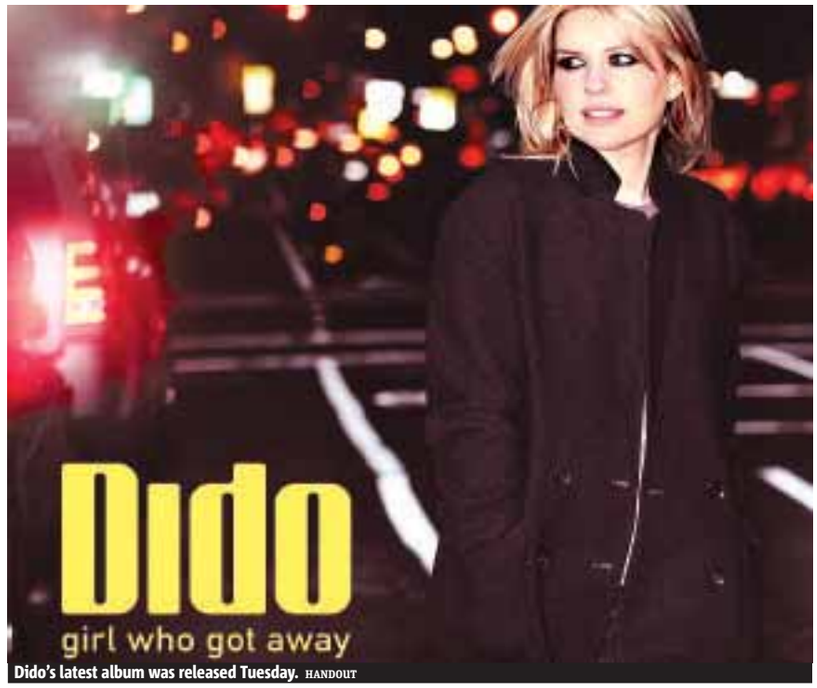
Dido promises new album won't be one who got away



Dido's latest album was released Tuesday. HANDOUT

Life gets in the way.

Singer's fourth album took more than a few years to get made but now that it's here she's hoping it's a success

Dido had been planning a relatively quick return to the spotlight after 2008's Safe Trip Home. She holed up in Los Angeles and London studios to record a set of electronic-tinged songs.

"I was busy telling everyone there was an album on the way," Dido said. "And then I found out there was a baby on the way instead."

She and husband Rohan Gavin welcomed their first child, a son named Stanley, in July 2011. Dido packed up the recordings to focus on family.

But then late last year, the 41-year-old English singer reached out to her brother, producer Rollo Armstrong, to finally put the finishing touches on her fourth album, Girl Who Got Away, released Tuesday.

The album has some electronica and dubstep influence. What were you feeling and listening to as you edged in that direction?

All the music you listen to in your life is all in like this big melting pot in your head and you can't help it. All the things you love just come out — whether it's dance music, hip-hop, folk. And I just love so many different types of music. ... It's similar to No Angel in that way in it's sort of unashamedly doing what I want.

But the thing that's holding it together is the songs and the same voice.

The album title seems to evoke a desire to escape and be away from the spotlight. Is that right?

It's a slightly almost joking comment on me, I guess. Everyone else spotted that aspect of the title. ... They're like, "Well, it's sort of perfect because you do keep disappearing." And it's like, "Really? Sorry!" I've never felt a need to sort of keep being in the public eye. I don't have that burning need. I do have a burning need to make music. I can't stop doing that and I don't want to stop doing that. Music is my thing and it's the way I see the world. And I love writing songs and I will always keep doing that.

Your husband wrote and is set to release a book that focuses on a father-son relationship. Has being a mother changed you creatively?

Obviously when you first have a kid, you're so focused on them and your brain slightly disintegrates. I don't know if anyone else has that, but it's just like, "Wow, where did my brain go?" Then it sort of comes back. ... Now I really see the world through his eyes and it gives this real freshness to everything. It's like if you thought you were going to run out of things to ever write about, you have a kid, then you're never going to run out because suddenly everything is sort of limitless again and fresh and new and it's like this amazing new start.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.

MIX OF SIX
Shelley Cook
winnipeg@metronews.ca

The only thing dead and silent is the name

Billy Talent take on the MTS Centre on Thursday as part of their Dead Silence Tour. The boys from Mississauga, Ont., have already wrapped up a successful tour across the pond, and are back to wow Canadian audiences with songs from their latest album, including Viking Death March and Surprise Surprise. Winnipeg is smack-dab in the middle of this 17-show tour. Special guests Sum 41, Hollerado and Indian Handcrafts will open the show at 7 p.m. For more info, check out billytalent.com.

Go see a Red Moon A'Risin

Red Moon Road is releasing their second EP, Tales from the Whiteshell, this Thursday at the West End Cultural Centre. The trio, made up of Daniel Jordan, Daniel Peloquin-Hopfner and Sheena Rattai have been plucking guitar strings and belting out tunes all over Canada since they formed in 2009. Their latest album is intense and heartfelt, paying homage to the Manitoba waters of the lakes that the band often sails and draws inspiration from. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. The show starts at 8 p.m. redmoonroad.com.

The Best kind of ball is a Powerball

All you Outlaw Gentlemen and Shady Ladies are in for a treat because Power 97's Powerball is going to rock the hell out of the MTS Centre on Tuesday. This all-ages rock extravaganza kicks off at 7 p.m. and features Volbeat with Danko Jones & Spoken. This show is going to be a heavy one, so make sure you rest up and book off the next day from work to recover from the awesomeness. Tickets are $29.50, $39.50, $45.50 (plus taxes and fees) and are available at Ticketmaster. For more information, check out power97.com.

You'll be Green with something after this...

Tom Green's World Standup Comedy Tour kicks off at Rumor's Restaurant and Comedy Club for a three-day run on Thursday. Green is best known for his unpredictable and insane shenanigans. I have no idea what you can expect from Green's show, but I'm guessing it will be like nothing you have ever experienced before. There are a variety of show times, so check rumorscomedyclub.com for details. Tickets cost $35 and are available online.

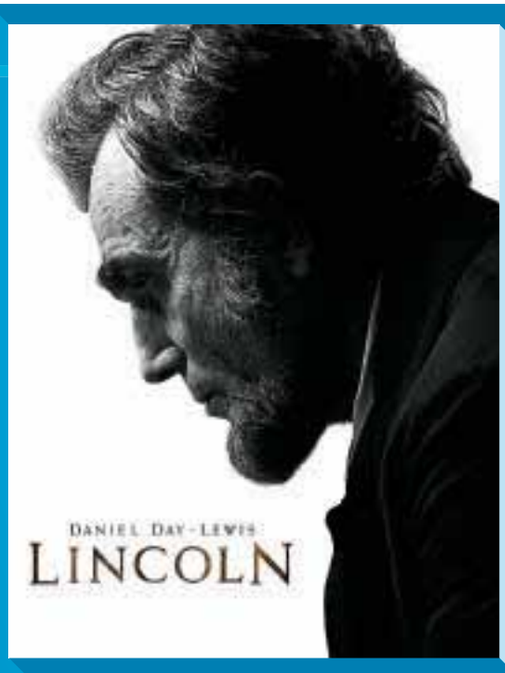
A legend brings his music to life

Randy Bachman's Vinyl Tap Tour: Every Song Tells A Story is playing at the Pantages Playhouse on Wednesday at 8 p.m. This intimate venue will see Bachman weave the music of the Guess Who and Bachman Turner Overdrive with the stories that brought these songs to life. The sovereign trio of Brent Howard, Marc LaFrance and Mick Dalla-Vee will join the Canadian Hall of Fame legend on the stage. Tickets range from $31.75 to $81.25 and are available at Ticketmaster. For more info, check out randybachman.com.

A work out for the mind

Jillian Michaels, the terrifying and extremely in shape fitness guru from the Biggest Loser, wants to show you how to Maximize your Life at the Centennial Concert Hall this Thursday. If you've been looking to draw some inspiration for a healthy new lifestyle, look no further, the guru is here. Michaels promises to inspire by "sharing her keys to health, success and happiness. No hype, no false promises, just results." Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and tickets range for $47.75 to $93.00 at Ticketmaster. jillianmichaels.com.

Now playing on Shaw On Demand.



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Price of paradise

The Office of Mercy. Young adult author talks about our fascination with imagining what will be

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in New York

There's no hunger in America-5. No unemployment, no struggling schools, no divisive elections. There's no income inequality because there's no longer a need for money, an unnecessary distraction when there are no wants. Established as an underground safe haven after a disastrous storm, America-5 is, on its surface, quite different from its predecessor.

And yet there's something eerily familiar about the setting of Ariel Djanikian's novel The Office of Mercy.

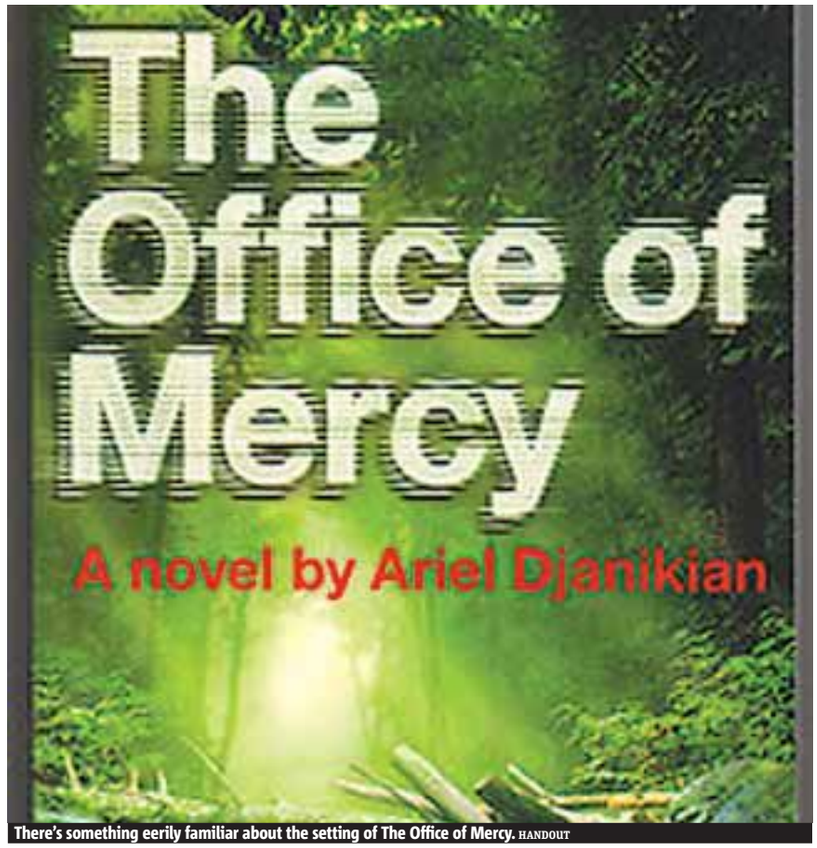
"I think there's something traditionally, deeply American about the postapocalyptic book — we're a forward-looking people in general," says Djanikian, a Philadelphia native and 2004 University of Pennsylvania graduate who now calls North Carolina home. "Things change fast now, and I think there's a desire to see where we'll land. There's a lot of historical fiction that's popular right now that seems like the reverse, but it's probably symptomatic of the same desire to find universal themes — either in a past or a future. Putting a story in a different time kind of quiets the noise and lets you look at people and emotions."

Like most utopias, America-5 is not quite the all-inclusive resort it appears to be. As an employee of the Office of Mercy, 24-year-old Natasha is tasked with euthanizing the unfortunate nomads who roam outside the community's walls — which seems compassionate enough until she's sent on an eye-opening mission above ground by bosses who are clearly not familiar with Young Adult novels and their feisty heroines.

Despite the bleak future she's imagined, Djanikian doesn't necessarily think humanity is doomed. But she does hope readers stop and think about what, exactly, constitutes a disaster. "I think it's more the job of a novel to say how things could be rather than how things should be," she says. "It's up to readers what they want to be horrified by and what they don't want to accept."

Young adult novels

- **On the genre.** Although Djanikian didn't write her novel for a specific audience, she's happy to be included in the Young Adult genre. "So many of them have such a compelling story," she says of YA books. "There's been a lot of books recently with strong female leads, people we can get behind. There was this fear that the computer generation wouldn't be reading as much, but that's just not the case."



There's something eerily familiar about the setting of The Office of Mercy. HANDOUT

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It's all good in the Brad Brad World of style

New season. Former style director for Rachel Zoe is watching his business take off with a plethora of pretty faces hiring out his services

Comparing season one with season two of Brad Goreski's reality TV show is like looking at before and after makeover photos.

It's a Brad Brad World began with Goreski trying to kick-start his styling business. He kept racks of clothes in his garage, worried about money and needed to get his name out there.

The show is now in its second season on Bravo (Wednesday, 10 p.m. EDT), and the former style director for Rachel Zoe has turned things around. (Goreski was featured on Zoe's Bravo series before landing his own show.)

He counts a number of Hollywood leading ladies as clients, including Jessica Alba, Rashida Jones, Stacy Keibler and Jenna Dewan-Tatum. He's also the head brand stylist for Kate Spade.

So what does he do for those famous faces?

"It's a very simple process," he explained in a recent interview. "I bring a very edited rack, and I know the top five things that (the client) is going to like."

When he dressed Alba for the Golden Globe Awards, "it was the first dress that we tried on," Goreski said.

"We tried on maybe three or four after that and were like, 'This is it,"' he said. "And I think that is a really good way to work."

Goreski, 35, said dressing celebrities is more than feeding their egos.

"People aren't hiring me to be a 'yes' man," he said. "They have their girlfriends for that."

He said a stylist has to able to say why something doesn't look great on a client or why it won't be received well.

"You can't just say 'it doesn't look good on you,' you have to say this: 'It's not flattering, the colour's off, it won't photograph well from the side, there's nothing really special about it."'

Goreski, well-coiffed and often sporting a bow tie, said he goes for comfort at home, just like everyone else.

"It all comes off as soon as I get home," he said.

"I love the big, like, basketball sweats ... and I only wear vintage T-shirts to bed because I like the super-thin ones.

"I have about six that all go on rotation and my boyfriend hates (them.) It's like a woman who wears the same flannel nightie to bed every night.

"Do you know what I mean? 'Not the blue one again, get a new T-shirt, what's the matter with you?"'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrity stylist Brad Goreski says dressing celebs is more than feeding their egos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brandy Norwood stars in Temptation. HANDOUT

The Temptation of Brandy Norwood

Q & A. Actress and singer talks to Metro about why she's so hyped to star in Tyler Perry's new flick

While she's had platinum-selling records, a hit TV show and numerous film roles, it's the chance to star in a Tyler Perry movie that has Brandy Norwood most excited.

Metro caught up with the star of Perry's Temptation to talk about that chance as well as what it is that makes Perry movies so incredibly popular.

After living the Tyler Perry filmmaking experience, what do you think it is that makes him such a popular filmmaker?

I think it's his heart, spirit and honesty. I think he's relatable, and it just feels like he's hung out in all of these areas and hoods. Every one of his films, you feel like you know a person like the characters in your life.

I think that's what makes him so powerful. On top of that, he's so humble, down to earth and appreciative for everything that he has accomplished.

He's not afraid to give that back and to help others. He opens the door for so many people and I'm one of them.

Singing vs. acting

Music for me is me. It's the way that I can express my being.... But with acting, I get a chance to challenge myself, to bring honesty and truth to someone completely different than me. That's very difficult to do. I love the challenge of that.

Brandy Norwood

What does it mean to you personally to be in a Tyler Perry movie?

Personally, it's everything because I'm a fan. I started off watching the plays on DVD. So it's a dream come true to be in a movie that he's directing, a movie that he's written, and then to be a part of something so powerful. It's a blessing.

You mentioned how powerful the film is, but what struck you the most when you first read it?

It was the subject matter. I felt like so many people have these battles in their relationships and not following that inner voice — that intuition that's telling you, "No!" It's that battle of the mind over the heart.

The mind is telling you, "You shouldn't do this." Also, people get confused what running is instead of what confronting is. Sometimes people feel like when you run away from your past or when you run away from the things that you don't want to face, you're being strong or you're being brave.

You're not. You're being a coward. It touches on that, especially with my character.

You've been successful in music, TV and film. Does each provide a different kind of creative juice to you?

It does, and they're all different. Music for me is me. It's the way that I can express my being. It's very personal to me, and also it's a way that I can relate to other people as well.

People don't want to feel like they're all by themselves, and that's what my music does for me and that's what it does for other people. But with acting, I get a chance to challenge myself, to bring honesty and truth to someone completely different than me. That's very difficult to do. I love the challenge of that.

Game Developer's Conference.
The big question now is not 'What's next? but 'Who cares?'

It's a time of transition for the video game industry.

With last year's launch of the Wii U, the impending arrival of the PlayStation 4 and the likelihood of a new Xbox on the horizon, the next generation of video game consoles is nearly here.

However, more than half of the attendees at this week's Game Developers Conference in San Francisco identify themselves as indie developers and their next creations will be for smartphones and tablets. So when it comes to the next generation of consoles, the question on their minds doesn't seem to be "What's next?" but rather "Who cares?"

The schedule for this year's GDC illustrates the dramatic changes that are reshaping the gaming industry, an evolution that's as much about business models as it is about pixels. GDC organizers have added a summit on free-to-play games, plan talks on topics like crowd funding and micro-transactions, and are presenting panels with such titles as "Making Money with Mobile Gaming" and "Why Won't FarmVille Go Away?"

Triple A still major players

Meggan Scavio, general manager of GDC, said 23,000 attendees are expected at this year's conference, which continues through Friday.

- While an increasing number of gamemakers are more interested in creating the next Minecraft instead of the next Call of Duty, Scavio noted that so-called triple-A games continue to have a place at the conference.

For the past 15 years, the Independent Games Festival has served as the Sundance of GDC, specifically honouring and highlighting the work of indie developers. But the lines have increasingly blurred between the IGF and GDC, the 27-year-old conference that serves as the largest gathering of the gaming industry in the U.S. outside the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles.

Simon Carless, executive vice-president at UMB Tech, which hosts GDC and IGF, said 58 per cent of developers surveyed by organizers plan to release their next game for tablets and smartphones. That's a big switch from 15 years ago when GDC was known as CGDC — the Computer Game Developers Conference.

"I think what we're seeing is that there's many more small developers," said Carless. "It's simply a fact that people are more excited by platforms where there's a low barrier for entry."

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Mendes' inner fashionista

Eva Mendes wraps her hair in a scarf on bad hair days. GETTY IMAGES

Eva Mendes will be doing the red-carpet circuit again with her new film, The Place Beyond the Pines, co-starring Ryan Gosling, coming out later this month. But while she lands more often than not in the fashion "do" column, Mendes says she knows she's made a few mistakes along the way, including one look she calls "Princess Jasmine gone wrong."

Still, she has style credibility — and is making the most of it. She's working on her own clothing line for New York & Company and is hoping to have it in stores for the fall. She's also been tapped to represent Vogue eyewear.

Here, Mendes, 38, talks about spreading her wings.

Do you feel any pressure to look "done up" whenever you leave the house?

No, that's a pressure I would never put on myself because I wouldn't want other women to feel that pressure. We all have our good days and our bad days. We all have our days when we feel great and want to look great, and then we have our days where we just want to be in our sweats or our jeans or our sweats equivalent and throw our hair up in a bun or a cap. For me, I like to throw my hair up in a scarf because it's an easy way to not deal with bad hair and it adds a little bit of elegance. So, usually when you see my hair up in some kind of scarf it's really not going for a look, it's going for function because I didn't have time to wash my hair or style it.

Do you ever look back at any of your red carpet moments and think, "What was I thinking?"

I really am the first one to laugh at myself and point out what a horrible fashion choice I made or point out an unflattering photo. About six years ago I went to the Ghostrider premiere in New York City and it was cold and snowing — I don't know why I'm sharing that, I think I'm trying to justify — and I had my dress on but I had to finish my hair and makeup in the back of an SUV. It was a beautiful dress, but the way I put everything together, it was a Princess Jasmine gone wrong. The strapless, purple dress with necklaces and hair in a really high braid. It's not a good look.

Are you someone who follows trends?

No. In fact, the worst thing a sales person can tell me when I'm in a shop is, 'Oh, that's been a hot seller.' ... Most of what I wear is vintage ... I like little boutiques. I feel stressed in department stores. Or, oh my god, I can't go to Target. I'm just overwhelmed. It's like the Super Bowl of stores. I like thrift shops more than vintage stores because at vintage stores just calling it 'vintage' kind of ups the price (laughs).

You're the face of an eyewear campaign. Do you wear glasses?

I started to need reading glasses like two years ago, but the funny thing is I used to want glasses so bad when I was little that I actually used to stare into the sun to damage my eyesight. My mom would catch me and be like, 'What are you doing?' I was obsessed with looking smart. I also went through a stage in junior high where I would wear non-prescription reading glasses and then I got called out one day, so I stopped that because I felt like a phoney. So, as of two years ago, I just started needing them. I love them. (Wearing glasses) adds an instant quirk and elegance.

What's the clothing line you're working on?

It's with New York & Company. I'm working on it right now for the fall line and working with vintage-inspired prints and cuts but not making it retro in any way. I come from a family where the women are more voluptuous so I like to cater to that.

Is this something you always wanted to do?

Not really. It crept up on me slowly. Then I realized this is where my passion lies. I think one of the great things about being an actress nowadays is we can wear so many hats. If you're creative in one area it usually seeps into another, like my home. I feel like my home is a set in a way - a lived-in set. I love to production design my own home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demetri keeps his worries at bay

New book. Absurdist comedian is putting his existential crisis on ice by penning his new book Point Your Face at This

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

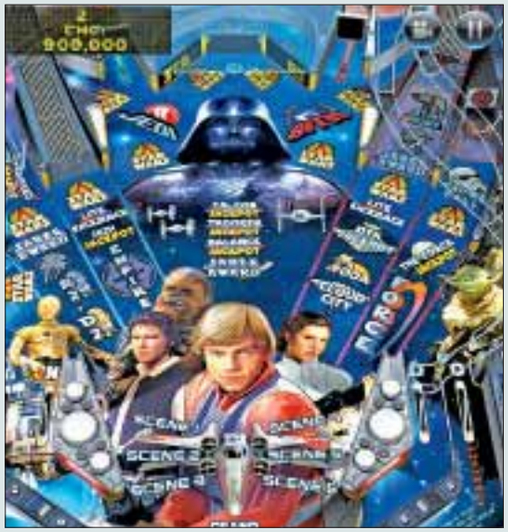
After Demetri Martin left New York for California a few years ago, he realized the reason he does the thoughtfully silly type of comedy he does.

"I would go for these long beach walks, and bring my notebook, daydreaming and writing," he says. "I do like going for walks and kind of escaping, which is probably why I don't do a lot of topical material, if any. I just don't feel as inspired by any of that. But it was this beautiful day and I was walking home and it was like the end of the day and it was sunset and there was hardly anybody on the beach. The ocean was on my left, I had flip-flops in my backpack and the water was hitting my feet and I remember thinking, 'I'm gonna freaking die!' I got all the distractions away, all the New York stuff that keeps me from worrying about really big stuff, so I had to escape into some stupid line drawings or jokes or whatever, because it's just kind of too much."

The tools he uses to hold his existential crisis at bay enables his audience to also stop thinking about their own mortality. His brand new book, Point Your Face at This, is a compilation of these self-described "stupid line drawings" that mine a similar life-affirming absurdity as The Far Side.

"I do remember, as a kid, Gary Larson being one of my first favourite things that I found funny," says Martin. "I used to just pop into the bookstore and not have any money to buy books or anything, but I would just flip through a Far Side, probably like a lot of kids, and just think how funny they were. And it was an interesting experience, looking at something on a page — often something without words — and find it funny. There was something so powerful about that for me."

Mind the App



Pinball wizards from the dark side

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

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Pinball machines and Star Wars movies share an exhilaration of sights and sounds in this fun arcade simulation where light sabers redirect silver balls that escape Darth Vader's crushing grasp.

Music videos from the fringe that are too hot for television

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

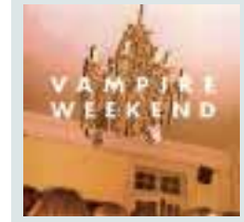
The cool thing about the Internet is that bands get to make videos that would have a hard time making it on TV.

Bad MF/Biting Elbows

When I posted this video from this unknown band on my website, traffic exploded. You've never, ever seen anything like this before. (Violence and coarse language! Definitely NSFW.)

Bohemian Rhapsody/ Puscifer

Weirdly cool—and more than just a little disturbing. In the absence of a new Tool album, I guess Maynard James Keenan needs to do something, although I'm not sure what Freddie Mercury would think.



Diane Young/ Vampire Weekend

Wherein the band greatly annoys Saab fans by torching some perfectly good cars.

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Hayden Panettiere. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Hayden Panettiere engaged to Klitschko?

Hayden Panettiere has secretly gotten engaged to her Ukrainian boxer beau, Wladimir Klitschko, according to Us Weekly.

"Very few people know, and she isn't wearing her ring publicly yet," a source says. "Looks like a summer wedding."

Panettiere and Klitschko split up in 2011 after two years of dating, and they have not officially confirmed they are back together, despite several public displays of affections over the past few months.

Sean Penn's son gets into fight with photographer

Sean Penn's 18-year-old son, Hopper, is proving to be just as much of a fan of the paparazzi as his dad, reportedly getting physical with a photographer outside a Beverly Hills building, according to TMZ.

Sean Penn.

The photographer claims he and Hopper argued before the young man shoved him. But while the photographer reportedly showed police footage of the incident when they arrived on the scene, he declined to press charges.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Jon Hamm wants you to stop talking about his package

THE WORD
Meredith Engel
scene@metronews.ca

Jon Hamm is growing tired of the attention his private parts have been receiving.

"Most of it's tongue-in-cheek, but it is a little rude," he tells Rolling Stone of the photos spread online of his crotch. "They're called 'privates' for a reason. I'm wearing pants. Lay off."

Of course, the Mad Men star doesn't want to come off as a complainer.

"I mean ... There are harder jobs in the world," he says. "But when people feel the freedom to create Tumblr accounts... I feel like that wasn't part of the deal. But whatever. I guess it's better than being called out for the opposite."

Exactly. Better than the alternative, Hamm. We could be talking about your Hammapillar.

Justin Bieber

Did Bieber lay a beat down?

Justin Bieber is facing battery accusations made by a neighbour who claims the singer made threats during an argument near his Los Angeles-area home, according to E! News. No further details of Bieber's supposed behaviour were made available.

While no arrests were made or injuries reported, the L.A. Sheriff's Department is investigating the accusation.

"Everyone that we will need to talk to, we will talk to," a spokesman says. Bieber was stopping home in California this week between stops on his European tour.

Twitter

@SteveMartinToGo
I hope to go down in history with this historic Tweet. Yes, the one you are reading right now. It's got it all.

@kirstiealley
my timeline is broken... ouch

@lenadunham
Just turned around and my dog was opening an Amazon box. So, friends and family, great knowing you but it seems we have it covered here.

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Spring into a male makeover

Fashion. The change in the seasons brings a combination of classic staples and new trends, including suede, splashes of colour and blue suits

Men will soon be packing away the parkas and shelving heavy sweaters to make way for spring styles — and they'd be wise to leave plenty of closet space.

"I find menswear right now the best it's ever been. It's just more exciting, fun, colourful," says Melissa Austria, founder of Toronto menswear boutique Gotstyle.

While menswear doesn't change as rapidly as womenswear, it remains rooted in the classic staples — albeit with a twist, notes Shannon Stewart, assistant general merchandise manager for Harry Rosen.

"The polo is a great example. It's been around for decades and decades and we keep reinventing it really through colour and through silhouette," Stewart says.

Whether you're a fashion-forward fella or a style neophyte, Austria and Stewart have some tips on ways men can spring forward with their seasonal wardrobe.

The wealth of fashion choices for men this spring will blow your mind—and your closet. ISTOCK

1. Rainbow brights. It's not just flashes of colour in neckties, pocket squares, socks and collared shirts: a rainbow full of saturated shades are brightening up all facets of menswear.

"The overriding theme for the season is the sheer amount of colour," says Stewart. "Even from a psychological point of view, it just has an impact on a person. It instantly lifts their mood — and it can instantly lift a wardrobe."

Austria says the colours span the spectrum from reds to brighter greens to blues, oranges and yellows.

"It's a more toned-down silhouette. So, it's going to be a toned-down (coloured) chino that you're going to wear with a crisp white shirt. It's going to be a polo shirt that you're going to wear with dark jeans," she says. "It doesn't have to be that intimidating for guys."

Colourful patterns are also in the mix for spring, with smaller-scale houndstooth print, finer stripes and smaller grid checks in shirting, notes Austria.

While some men may have no qualms about donning pants in a bold hue or pairing a variety of shades within one look, both Austria and Stewart say more style-shy guys should start by opting for one core coloured piece.

Unsure of which shade to select? Stewart recommends blue, which she says is a "go-to colour" for many men.

"If they stay in that colour family of blues but maybe go a little bit lighter or a little bit more punchier with the blue, it's a simple way of just taking the blue up a notch from the usual navy or denim blue."

2. Tie one on. Bow ties are broadening beyond tuxedos and geek chic as a sleek alternative to neckties awash in vibrant hues, graphic patterns and even available in reversible varieties.

"Even if a man isn't planning on buying a new suit for the season, through dress shirts and ties ... or bow ties, you can easily freshen up a suit that you may have purchased within the last couple of years," says Stewart.

"We've seen a return to men wearing bow ties which is kind of fun. It's definitely a modern look, you have to be a little bit more confident in it, but it's just a great way to inject a little bit of life into the wardrobe."

Austria says the use of colourful, lighter-weight summer scarves — which has made a splash on the other side of the Atlantic — is poised to make waves closer to home.

"If you go to Europe, they've been showing them for 10, 15 years; and now we're slowly starting to see the guys embrace that in North America," she says.

3. Smart suiting. Austria says formal wear for men is true blue heading into spring after being "grey-driven" for some time. Austria says the new blue is a lighter hue and distinct from the midnight navy and darker shades of the classic colour.

"You can tell that it's blue and it's really fresh," she says. "I just find it more vibrant."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fun with footwear

Stewart says its all about suede and colours that pop.

- "It's still breathable, it's a natural material and it adds just a little texture," she says.
- Try a coloured lace or coloured sole for subtler effects.

Not just for Pee-wee

"We've seen a return to men wearing bow ties ... It's definitely a modern look, and you have to be a little more confident."

Harry Rosen merchandise manager Shannon Stewart

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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My seder table! Happy Passover! Such a blessing to be with family+friends. But I miss @joeyoneil :(

Back to my "radio" roots! At Astral radio studios recording spots for @EDITbyJeanneB

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Adelle
Student
Age: 25

What she's wearing
Deena & Ozzy hat, T. Babaton coat, Lush blazer and collared shirt, BCBG jeans, Casa Blanca boots.

Her inspiration
"Fashion magazines and vintage patterns. I like colour blocking, intertwining old with the new, and dressing comfortable yet sophisticated."

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Something for every outdoor decorator

For summer. From au naturel to funky brights, outdoor decorating offers up many looks this year

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Whether you are someone who has fallen in love with nature's natural tones or are flipping for colourful brights this summer, there's something for everyone to help decorate the great outdoors.

Well-priced and national availability is what we're going for this week. Enjoy the pickings that are ripe for outdoor summer decorating.

Natural

Picnic basket

Get ready for a speed date with a fully stocked picnic basket for those visits to the park. Ventana Natural Picnic Basket offers a rustic look with trendy chevron weave, $52. crateandbarrel.com.

Woven texture candles

Add natural outdoor charm to your table with woven patterns on candles. Natural Woven textures meets beehive with the Brian Gluckstein's Texaline Pillar Candle for Hudson Bay, $8. thebay.com.

Brights

Outdoor light

Create night light with Outdoor Cube LED Light. Add a modern touch to your patio. The LED light features many colours and effects. $150. thebay.com.

Crocheted apple outdoor pouf

All-weather polypropylene brings casual seating to the patio in a contemporary, hand-crocheted round, perfect for lounging by the pool, $190. crateandbarrel.com.

Chevron-patterned rug

Add one of the season's biggest trends to the great outdoors with a Chevron-patterned, hand-hooked polypropylene rug in cream/brown, starting at $129. sears.ca.

Cement grey side table

Cool and contemporary style is easy to have. Handcrafted from stone composite and natural fibres, this makes the perfect stool or side table, $180. cb2.com.

Indoor/outdoor pillows

Artisan-inspired pillows create trendy pops of colour outside or in, $49-69. cb2.com.

ATTENTION HOME OWNERS!
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Taking the time to prepare for your new furry friend will prevent stress and unnecessary accidents. ISTOCK IMAGES

Is your home pet-ready?

Introducing a pet into your home may not be as difficult as you think.

"Pets enrich our lives and bring happiness to our homes, but careful preparation is necessary for such a commitment," says Steve Gray, a broker with Royal LePage Kelowna in B.C. "You can make the process easier with a few helpful tips." Gray recommends the following:

Consider a crate for your pet

Most pets do not come trained and they certainly don't know what's safe to chew.

By crating your pet when you are away, you ensure that your possessions are left intact and your pet's safety is put first.

In addition to protecting your belongings, crating your pet will encourage good behaviour during the most formative years.

Secure your kitchen cabinets

There are many kitchen items that are deadly to animals.

Contact your veterinarian for a list of these products and secure your cabinets with child-proof locks. Keep your trash can tightly lidded.

Make sure your heating and air vents have adequate covers

If you are bringing home a "pocket pet," such as a hamster or guinea pig, you may be surprised at the tiny areas your new friend can squeeze into.

By placing closely-grated covers on your vents, you ensure the safety of your pet. You also prevent fur and hair from clogging your air ducts and decreasing your home's overall efficiency. These tips can make the transition much less complicated.

NEWS CANADA

HOMES FOR ANY AND ALL LIFESTYLES

EAST CONCORDIA LANDING OFFERS MANY FEATURES

East Concordia Landing is offering affordable, comfortable homes in a convenient location, featuring many desirable options for the would-be occupant.

Broadstreet Properties has spent its time and effort into making this development affordable and luxurious. Tagging on to the success of its neighbouring development East Concordia Manor, East Concordia Landing is situated in the beautiful and newly developed neighbourhood of East Kildonan.

Once construction is completed, beautiful greenery will surround the building, which is also fitted with enough amenities to keep the resident happy inside, as well as out.

The developer, Broadstreet Properties, describes the site as incredibly accessible and convenient for any aged renter.

CONTRIBUTED

This apartment complex offers month-to-month rental agreements that are pet-friendly, allowing up to two pets — cats or dogs included.

Each unit inside East Concordia Landing features modern finishes such as maple floors and dark cabinetry, as well as coveted ensuite amenities, such as laundry machines, dishwashers and air conditioning. Complex amenities include powered parking, and on-site management and maintenance staff ready to take care of any and all issues you might encounter in a home.

The location is close to major transportation routes, Concordia Hospital and shopping along Regent Avenue.

If that's not enough, there is also a 24/7 toll-free client care centre designed to assist tenants with their needs any time of day or night.

Units range in size from one-bedroom, 676-square-feet apartments beginning at $945 a month, to two-bedrooms starting from $1,165 a month, between 859 to 971 square feet, up to larger three-bedroom units at 971 square feet at an affordable $1,245 a month.

To those who desire security, there is a secured fob entrance system installed as well as an elevator for easy access to your unit.

If they wish, residents may also use the recreation room available to them.

And transportation for a night on the town or even a nice shopping route is close by, really making East Concordia Landing a home designed for any and all lifestyles.

East Concordia Landing is situated on 525 Peguis St. For more information, call 1-866-RENT-515 or 204-414-2421, or visit broadstreet.ca and search for East Concordia Landing.

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Marble Mocha Cheesecake

This recipe serves 12. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Easter sweets get a grown-up flavour

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

Coffee and chocolate go so well with this creamy cheese batter.

You can double this recipe: Bake it in a 10-inch pan and add another 10 minutes to the baking time, baking until the center is still loose.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups chocolate wafer crumbs
- 2 tbsp water
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 2/3 cups smooth light ricotta
- 1/3 cup softened light cream cheese
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup light sour cream or 2% yogurt
- 1 1/2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 tsp instant coffee granules
- 2 tsp hot water
- 3 tbsp semi-soft chocolate chips
- 1 tsp vegetable oil

1. Spray an 8-inch springform pan with cooking oil. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. For the crust, combine the crumbs, sugar, water and oil. Mix thoroughly. Press into the bottom and up the sides of the prepared springform pan.

3. For the filling, beat the ricotta, cream cheese, sugar, egg, sour cream, flour and vanilla in a large bowl or food processor until well blended. Dissolve the coffee granules in the hot water. Add to the batter and mix until incorporated. Pour the batter over the crust and smooth the top.

4. Place the chocolate chips and oil in a small bowl and microwave on medium high for 30 seconds or just until soft. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the top of the batter. Draw a knife or spatula through the batter several times to create a marbled effect.

5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. The centre will be slightly loose when you jiggle the cake.

6. Cool on a rack. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before removing the sides of the pan and serving.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

For your phone

Dash Eggs! (iPad; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

Let the Easter Bunny stay for breakfast. Dash magazine's interactive egg recipes include pizza omelets, scrambled slider burgers, sweet whoopee pies, snappy salads, and puppet spoon crafts for the kids.

Springtime pound cake

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How do you make pound cake even more buttery and delicious? Easy! Pan-sear slices of it with butter and sugar.

If you know how to make a grilled cheese, you can make this dessert, which is a perfect ending to an Easter — or any springtime — dinner. Pan-seared pound cake is decadent and rich, so we've paired it with a fresh, minty fruit salad for balance.

1. In a medium bowl, combine 1 tablespoon of the sugar with the orange segments, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, lemon juice and mint. Stir gently, then set aside.

2. Spread both sides of each slice of the pound cake with a bit of the butter, lightly coating the surface. Use the remaining tablespoon of sugar to sprinkle over both sides of each slice.

3. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium. Working in batches, toast the cake slices for 3 to 4 minutes per side, or until golden and caramelized. Serve warm and topped with the fruit salad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp sugar, divided
- 3 navel oranges, peeled and segmented
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup raspberries
- 1 cup quartered strawberries
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh mint
- 8 thick slices purchased or homemade pound cake
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, softened

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Baba Jenny's is HERE!
Baba Jenny's Ukrainian Foods
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• Cabbage Rolls
• Nalysnyky (Sweet Crepes)
• Perishke (Sweet Buns)
• Pompushky (Prune Buns)
• Borscht
Sobeys Rivergrove Winnipeg
Birds Hill in East St. Paul
Sobey Burrows Winnipeg
Sobeys Portage La Prairie
Sobeys

Snack or dessert. Retro Cream Cheese Mints

1. In bowl of stand mixer, combine cream cheese and about a quarter of powdered sugar. Using dough hook, begin mixing. As mixture comes together, add the remaining powdered sugar, a quarter at a time, mixing well between each addition. The dough also can be mixed by hand; treat it as though you are kneading bread dough. The mixture with be quite stiff.

2. Add 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of the flavouring or extract of your choice. Once the flavouring is mixed in, add food colouring, mixing until evenly coloured. As with the flavouring, the mixture can be divided and different colours can be used for each batch.

3. Pinch off pieces of dough and roll into 1-inch balls. Roll the balls in the superfine sugar. Press the pieces into candy moulds or press with a fork or the bottom of a glass to make a decorative impression on the tops. Place on waxed paper and allow to dry, uncovered, overnight. If keeping longer than a few days, place in an airtight container between sheets of waxed paper and freeze for up to 1 month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 8-oz block cream cheese
- 2 lbs powdered sugar
- Flavourings or extracts of your choice
- Gel food colouring (optional)
- Superfine sugar

RELIEVE STOMACH PROBLEMS NATURALLY

IBEROGAST COMBINES NINE HERBS THAT HELP SOOTHE DISORDERS

Got a nervous stomach?

Besides trying home remedies, such as sipping mint tea or eating a few plain crackers, one of the newest natural remedies in Canada is an over-the-counter product made in Germany called Iberogast. This herbal remedy combines nine herbs that help relieve various symptoms of reflux and other functional gastrointestinal (GI) disorders.

GI disorders affect millions of people of all ages, according to the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders. The foundation explains that problems occur when nerves or muscles in the digestive tract or intestines impair function and cause everything from nausea, bloating and discomfort to cramping, heartburn, abdominal pain, and constipation and diarrhea. Diagnosed GI disorders include functional dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome, reflux and GERD. But many people experience symptoms periodically and often turn to antacids and other medications.

CONTRIBUTED

"With so many people looking for natural ways to manage their health today, it's worth a try to see if Iberogast will work for you — and most likely it will," says Iberogast spokesperson Garrett Sher.

Iberogast has been used in Europe and around the world for more than 40 years. Clinical studies show that it is safe and effective with no known side-effects. Patients use Iberogast when they are experiencing symptoms (20 drops in a glass of water or juice three times a day) or as a preventative measure for a chronic condition.

The main herb in Iberogast is iberis amara, which helps to soothe muscles in the gastrointestinal tract. It works together with lemon balm leaves, which calm a nervous stomach, peppermint leaves to treat cramping and gas, and chamomile that calms the gastrointestinal tract. Angelica relieves cramping and aids digestion, caraway fruit reduces gas, St. Mary's thistle supports the gastrointestinal tract, and licorice root and celandine treats cramping.

Speak to your doctor if your stomach problems last for more than five days.

DR. OZ WEIGHS IN

Iberogast is one of the worry "cures" for the stomach that were highlighted on a recent Dr. Oz show. "When the stomach is in knots, it's like an antacid, only better," says Dr. Mehmet Oz, a surgeon, author and TV personality, who was first introduced to audiences on Oprah.

NPN 80022866

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- Cramping
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- Abdominal Pain

As Seen On Dr. Oz

www.Iberogast.ca

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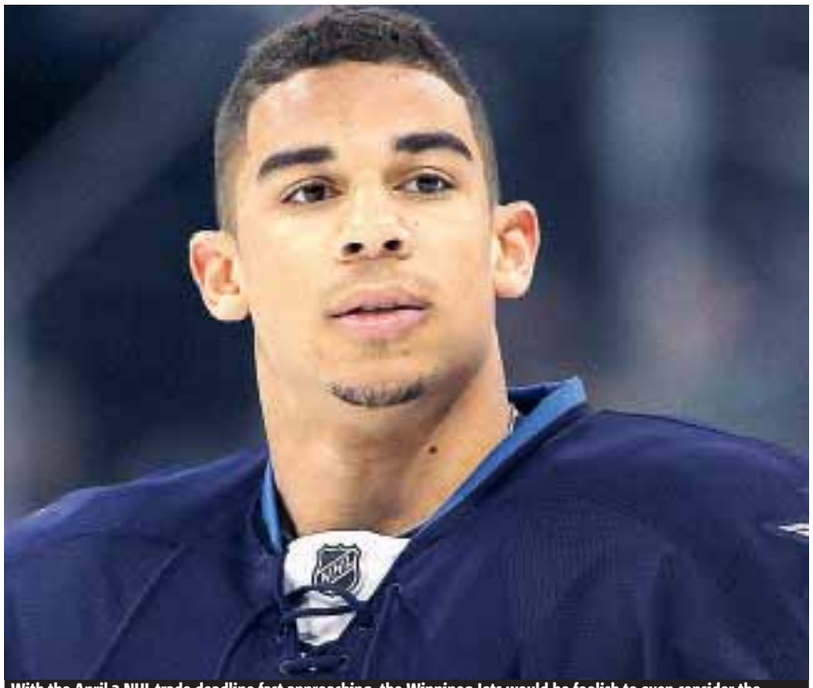
SPORTS 4

Mega-trade makes little sense for Jets

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Rory Boylen
winnipeg@metronews.ca



With the April 3 NHL trade deadline fast approaching, the Winnipeg Jets would be foolish to even consider the thought of dealing forward Evander Kane to a competitor. MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES

With the trade deadline less than a week away, rumours are starting to pick up around the league.

The Jets will certainly not be sellers and will want to keep moving forward with their current core, but GM Kevin Cheveldayoff wouldn't be doing his job if he didn't keep his ear to the ground and all options open.

Like a lot of teams, the Jets could use a top-two-line centre, but given the rarity of that commodity, it's unlikely they'll pick one up by April 3. The most likely player to be moved who fits that description is Mike Ribeiro in Washington, but the Caps would be unwilling to keep Ribeiro in the division and have him working against their playoff chances down the stretch.

More realistically, the Jets would do well to pick up a bottom-six grinder or two with the capability to add something to the league's 26th-ranked penalty kill. Winnipeg should also be seeking a veteran defenceman whose best-case scenario is to play on the second pairing, but who is able to at least slip onto the bottom pair.

The following are some Jets players who have either been mentioned in trade rumours, or are moveable pieces, with a note on each.

Evander Kane: No. Just, no. Trading Kane would be an atrocious move and cannot even be on Cheveldayoff's mind at this point. Any Kane trade would set the franchise back when it should be pushing forward.

Bryan Little: If Winnipeg wasn't so weak at centre, Little would be a more likely trade candidate.

He has never been able to recapture the offensive magic he found in his 31-goal 2008-09 season and has only three power-play points, despite logging plenty of extra-man time.

He also plays a lot of shorthanded minutes, but that part of Winnipeg's game could use a shake-up.

It's unlikely Little will be moved in-season and it seems he'll only likely be part of a package for an upgrade at the position.

Alexander Burmistrov: He was a healthy scratch four games in a row and has seen his ice time dip dramatically in recent weeks. Burmistrov hasn't begun to touch the potential many saw in him for offence and the Jets seem less and less willing to wait him out. Given the Russian's slow development, it's difficult to gauge what the market price would be, but there are plenty of teams who would be willing to move a more experienced — and signed — piece for one with so much promise.

CFL

Former Bombers assistant Ron Lancaster Jr. dies

Ron Lancaster Jr., a former CFL assistant coach and the son of Canadian Football Hall of Famer Ron Lancaster, has died.

An official with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats said the younger Lancaster was found dead in his apartment in Hamilton on Tuesday night.

Neither the cause of death nor Lancaster's age were immediately available.

Lancaster Jr. was an assistant coach in the CFL with Toronto, Edmonton, Hamilton and Winnipeg.

He made five Grey Cup appearances, winning three, including in 1999 with Hamilton when his father was the club's head coach.

"The Lancaster name has deep roots in our league and our thoughts are with the entire family during this time," Blue Bombers president and CEO Garth Buchko said in a statement.

"The entire Tiger-Cats organization would like to express our sincere condolences to the Lancaster family," said Hamilton president Scott Mitchell.

The elder Lancaster won two Grey Cups as a quarterback with Ottawa and Saskatchewan before claiming two CFL titles as a head coach with Edmonton and Hamilton.

The league's outstanding player in 1970, he was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1982 and died Sept. 18, 2008, at the age of 69.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadiens battle back to edge Bruins in overtime

Bruins forward Brad Marchand checks Canadiens defender P.K. Subban during the first period on Wednesday night in Boston. JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Markov's late equalizer sends game to extra time as Montreal prevails in shootout in Boston

On Wednesday

6	5
Canadiens	Bruins

Andrei Markov tied it with 8.2 seconds left in regulation, and Brendan Gallagher scored the only shootout goal to give the Montreal Canadiens a 6-5 victory over the Boston Bruins on Wednesday night.

The victory snapped a tie for the second-most points in the Eastern Conference, giving the Canadiens 47. They lead the Northeast Division by a point over the Bruins.

In the shootout, all six Bruins players were stopped. The first five Canadiens couldn't score, either. Then Gallagher put the puck between Tuukka Rask's pads.

It capped a comeback after Boston had taken a 5-3 lead on Tyler Seguin's 11th goal of the season at 11:50 of the third period. Gallagher scored 28 seconds later, then Markov tied it on a power play.

With Aaron Johnson in the penalty box for delay of game, Markov's shot from the left point appeared to go in off the stick of Boston's Zdeno Chara. Gallagher, also in front, initially was credited with the goal before an official scoring change gave it to Markov, his sixth.

Montreal's comeback ruined the Bruins' rally from a 2-0 deficit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heat streak ends at 27

Miami Heat forward LeBron James drives into Bulls guard Kirk Hinrich on Wednesday night in Chicago. The Heat fell six games short of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers' record 33-game win streak with a 101-97 loss to the Bulls. NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	56	14	.800	—
x-New York	44	26	.629	12
x-Indiana	45	27	.625	12
x-Brooklyn	41	29	.586	15
x-Atlanta	40	32	.556	17
x-Chicago	38	31	.551	17½
Boston	37	34	.521	19½
Milwaukee	34	36	.486	22
Philadelphia	28	43	.394	28½
Toronto	26	45	.366	30½
Washington	26	45	.366	30½
Detroit	24	48	.333	33
Cleveland	22	48	.314	34
Orlando	18	54	.250	39
Charlotte	17	54	.239	39½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	53	17	.757	—
x-Oklahoma City	53	19	.736	1
x-Denver	49	23	.681	5
x-L.A. Clippers	49	23	.681	5
x-Memphis	47	24	.662	6½
Golden State	41	31	.569	13
Houston	39	32	.549	14½
L.A. Lakers	37	35	.514	17
Utah	35	36	.493	18½
Dallas	35	36	.493	18½
Portland	33	37	.471	20
Minnesota	25	45	.357	28
Sacramento	25	46	.352	28½
New Orleans	25	47	.347	29
Phoenix	23	48	.324	30½

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division.

Wednesday's results
Atlanta 107 Toronto 88
Boston 93 Cleveland 92
Charlotte 114 Orlando 108
Chicago 101 Miami 97
Indiana 100 Houston 91
L.A. Clippers 105 New Orleans 91
L.A. Lakers 120 Minnesota 117
New York 108 Memphis 101
Oklahoma City 103 Washington 80
Philadelphia 100 Milwaukee 92
Denver at San Antonio
Phoenix at Utah
Brooklyn at Portland
Sacramento at Golden State

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	34	26	8	0	117	84	52
New Jersey	33	15	11	7	82	89	37
NY Rangers	32	16	13	3	78	78	35
NY Islanders	33	15	15	3	96	107	33
Philadelphia	32	13	17	2	84	99	28

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	33	21	7	5	104	83	47
Boston	32	21	7	4	94	72	46
Ottawa	33	18	9	6	86	72	42
Toronto	34	18	12	4	102	97	40
Buffalo	33	13	16	4	87	102	30

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Winnipeg	34	18	14	2	88	99	38
Carolina	31	15	14	2	86	90	32
Washington	33	15	17	1	94	93	31
Tampa Bay	33	14	18	1	105	99	29
Florida	34	9	19	6	80	119	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	32	25	4	3	108	71	53
Detroit	33	17	11	5	90	83	39
St. Louis	32	17	13	2	92	89	36
Nashville	33	14	13	6	83	88	34
Columbus	33	13	13	7	75	86	33

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	33	18	9	6	88	85	42
Minnesota	31	19	10	2	86	75	40
Edmonton	32	12	13	7	77	91	31
Calgary	31	12	15	4	85	105	28
Colorado	31	11	16	4	79	100	26

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	32	22	6	4	104	83	48
Los Angeles	32	18	12	2	93	80	38
San Jose	31	14	11	6	76	82	34
Dallas	32	15	14	3	87	97	33
Phoenix	32	13	15	4	82	90	30

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

Wednesday's results
Montreal 6 Boston 5 (SO)
Phoenix at Minnesota
Colorado at Calgary
Anaheim at San Jose

Tuesday's results
Chicago 2 Calgary 0
Edmonton 3 St. Louis 0
NY Islanders 3 Washington 2
NY Rangers 5 Philadelphia 2
Pittsburgh 1 Montreal 0
Tampa Bay 2 Buffalo 1
Toronto 3 Florida 2
Vancouver 1 Columbus 0 (SO)
Winnipeg 4 Carolina 1

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
Winnipeg at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Detroit at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 9 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	15	39	54
Stamkos, TB	23	20	43
Kunitz, Pgh	19	23	42
St-Louis, TB	8	34	42
Kane, Chi	17	24	41
Getzlaf, Ana	12	25	37
Tavares, NYI	20	15	35
Staal, Car	14	21	35
Kadri, Tor	14	21	35
Ribeiro, Wash	11	24	35
Datsyuk, Det	11	24	35
Voracek, Pha	14	20	34
Moulson, NYI	11	23	34
Vanek, Buf	16	17	33
Toews, Chi	16	16	32
Ovechkin, Wash	16	16	32
Ladd, Wpg	14	18	32
Duchene, Col	12	20	32
Kessel, Tor	10	22	32

Not including Wednesday's games

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Now that the effects of the full moon are starting to fade, you will soon be back to your best. The various parts of your personality will quickly come into perfect alignment.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The impossible looks easy to you at the moment. Forget about being practical: Let your imagination guide you in new directions over the next few days. If you want to know your future, look to your fantasies.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is no need to feel guilty just because some people have not been as fortunate as you. There is no such thing as luck: It is all part of the grand design. You must have done something to deserve it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What do you want to achieve in life? What do you want to be remembered for? If you make the right moves and talk to the right people today, you can give your reputation, and your dreams, a major boost.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Life seems to be effortless at the moment. Everything seems to be falling into place. Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire sign of Aries suggests that your efforts will pay off in big ways — so get busy.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
What happened around the time of yesterday's full moon means there is no room left for denial. The time has come to face up to reality. What you think is a problem won't be a problem much longer

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You can be a hit with important people today — if you project the right image. First impressions are important, so make sure what you do is in line with your long-term goals.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Even if you have done something that is worth shouting about, you should try to maintain a modest manner. Authority figures know what you are capable of and what you have accomplished.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have the courage and the confidence to do something out of the ordinary. But remember you are still human, you still have limits, even though your limits may be wider and higher than others'.

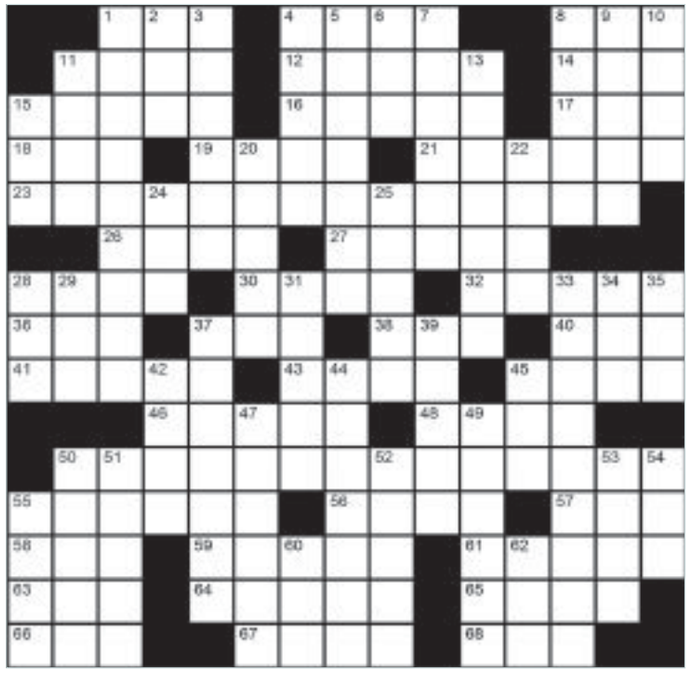
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be determined to change your life but it seems not everyone agrees with the way you intend to do it. That does not matter. The only thing that counts is that you believe in yourself.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have the ability to notice things that others tend to overlook and that ability will come in use today. If knowledge is power then you have more power than just about everyone.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your attitude to money seems to have changed a bit over the past few days. But you need to realize that although you may not care so much for the material world, you still have to live in it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

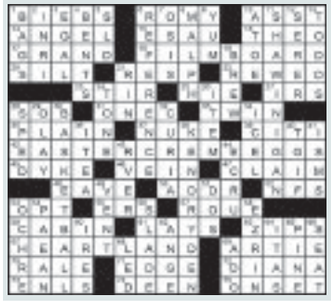
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Small film role, __ part
4. Perry Mason's Canadian portrayer, Raymond __
8. Gladiator's 1060
11. Music's Ms. Turner
12. Bitter-__ (Diehard)
14. Be out of sorts
15. Farmland
16. Outpouring
17. Gun the engine
18. "Lord, is __ _?" (Last Supper question)
19. "Rebel Yell" singer Billy
21. From whom the new Pope takes his name, St. Francis of __
23. Canada's government, __ Monarchy
26. Leavin'
27. Category
28. Flow
30. "Egad!" sound interpretation
32. Mr. Savalas
36. Mauna __ (Hawaiian volcano)
37. Ben, to Brian
38. __ and outs
40. Battery size
41. _ __ of the tongue
43. "Look, all done!"
45. Clouseau's li'l rank
46. __. wage
48. 'D' of CD, variantly
50. Hockey legend nicknamed 'The Rocket': 2 wds.
55. Preacher's podium
56. Emperor of Rome
57. GBS part (Canadian band)
58. Entirely
59. Swap stock
61. "Of course!", in slang
63. __ Chi
64. Two-__
65. Islands: French
66. 'Eug' ender (Mr. Levy)
67. Some fishies
68. Paramedic's skill, commonly

Down
1. Speaks French and English
2. Percentage on a chg. card
3. South Pacific island painted by Paul†Gauguin
4. Stupefy
5. Puts away the electric guitar, uses the acoustic
6. Nutritional suggested amount [acronym]
7. Keep back
8. "West Side Story" (1961) role
9. Teenager in "The Sound of Music" (1965)
10. 46 in old Rome
11. The Jackson 5 member
13. Luxury getaways
15. __-Tac-Toe
20. Wild†dog of Australia
22. Snick-or-__
24. Chicago White __
25. Lukewarm
28. Miami, __.
29. Rock's __ Lonely Boys
31. Shenanigan
33. Bomber aircraft of the Allies in WWII, Avro __
34. Elvis movie: "Viva __ Vegas" (1964)
35. Mouth, slang-style
37. Ghosts
39. Low point
42. "It's my turn!": 2 wds.
44. Revised
45. Suffix meaning 'somewhat'
47. __ acid
49. Like a widely-recognized symbol
50. Disney flick of 1998 set in China
51. "Kate & __" ('80s sitcom)
52. Marsh plants
53. Tapes a show, for short
54. Morse Code bit
55. Hors d'oeuvre spread
60. Shakespeare's Much __ About Nothing
62. Matterhorn, for one

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	8		5	2	3		9	
3								2
		7				6		
5	4		8		7		3	1
				9				
7	6		3		4		2	8
		3				8		
6								5
	9		6	8	2		1	

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	9	2	1	6	4	8	3
3	1	8	5	4	7	6	9	2
2	4	6	3	8	9	1	5	7
4	6	1	7	3	5	9	2	8
9	3	2	8	6	4	5	7	1
5	8	7	1	9	2	3	4	6
8	9	4	6	7	3	2	1	5
1	2	3	9	5	8	7	6	4
6	7	5	4	2	1	8	3	9

Weather

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

	TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	MAX: 1° MIN: -11°	MAX: 4° MIN: -4°	MAX: 2° MIN: -6°

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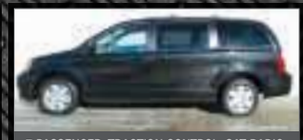

7 PASSENGER, TRACTION CONTROL, SAT RADIO, A/C, CRUISE, POWER GROUP

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$17,898 / $133****

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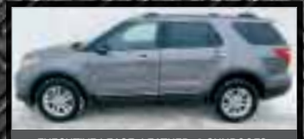
2013 FORD EDGE SEL AWD
$32,879 / $227****



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